For minor needs.
QuickCare
For urgent needs.
QuickCare Plus
TWO QUICK PATHS TO CARE.
New Names. Both Bronson. Bronson FastCare and Urgent Care are now Bronson QuickCare™ and QuickCare Plus.™ It's the same trusted Bronson care — now with a clearer path to get it. For common illnesses visit Bronson QuickCare.™ For stitches or minor breaks choose Bronson QuickCare Plus.™ For serious emergencies like chest pain go to the nearest emergency room.
bronsonhealth.com/qc
BRONSON

the UE
Otsego & Plainwell
UNION ENTERPRISE
FREE
Volume 71, Issue 24 · www.wilcoxnewspapers.com
Thursday, December 11, 2025

Creviston, Zupko join OHS band for holiday concert

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

As Otsego High School band director Mitch Piersma was eating breakfast in the early morning hours on Thursday, Dec. 4, his phone rang.

He was hesitant to answer.

"I immediately starting saying, 'No, no, no,' before I answered it," Piersma said.

When he answered, his fears were confirmed: Otsego Public Schools was closed for the day due to icy road conditions.

Would the holiday band concert scheduled for that evening—one scheduled to feature special accompaniment by 1986 OHS graduate Dr. Chris Creviston on a piece composed by '89 OHS grad Mischa Zupko—also be cancelled?

Luckily, that didn't happen, as conditions quickly improved and the concert was able to proceed as scheduled.

And Piersma couldn't have been happier with the way the concert went.

"This concert was literally the best I've ever been involved in here at OHS," Piersma said. "It was unreal how everything came together—not just the songs with Dr. Creviston, but the way our flute choir, concert band and symphonic band performed was outstanding."

At top, Chris Creviston performs with the Otsego High School band. At right, Creviston (far right) is seen with OHS band director Mitch Piersma (left) and composer Mischa Zupko (center). Creviston, a 1986 OHS graduate, played a piece composed by Zupko, a 1989 OHS grad. (Photos provided)

Creviston, a saxophone professor at Arizona State University who also plays professionally, joined the OHS band for two songs. One was a piece titled "Azure Sky" written by Zupko.

This marked the world premiere of "Azure Sky," as Creviston joined a consortium with OHS and two other high school bands—one in Arizona and one in New York—to commission the piece and gain original rights before it went public.

"Dr. Creviston brought both songs to life, especially the one written by Mischa Zupko," Piersma said. "The kids had been struggling, as it is hard to make sense of a song when the main soloist isn't there. Once Dr. Creviston showed up, they really caught on and loved the pieces."

Having Creviston and Zupko take in Otsego was a treat for Piersma.

"It was unreal," Piersma said. "Those guys are in a musical class all their own. I am honored that they wanted to write and perform for our symphonic band."

That sentiment was shared by Piersma's students and those in attendance.

"The number of comments I received after the concert told me this was one of (the students') favorite concerts ever," Piersma said. "Some said it was their absolute favorite. People were quite impressed with everyone."

The night was capped off by another OHS grad, Nate Taylor.

Taylor, a 1999 OHS grad who works with the band's drumline, was selected as the winner of the slapstick raffle and was able to join the band for one song.

The slapstick is a percussion instrument.

"Nate always makes things fun and it capped off a perfect night to have another awesome alumni up on stage with our band," Piersma said.

Plainwell High School Student Senate hosts PCS Holiday Night

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Want to have fun while making a positive impact on the community?

If so, then the Plainwell High School Student Senate has just the thing for you.

On Monday, Dec. 15, the PHS Student Senate will host PCS Holiday Night, a family-friendly event at Plainwell High School that will support the Plainwell Volunteer Christmas Project.

Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item or a monetary donation for entrance.

PHS Student Senate president Brooklyn Wagenaar is the committee chair for the Holiday Night.

"The idea for the Holiday Night came about because we in class were brainstorming a way to do more charity events," Wagenaar said. "We came up with the idea for a Holiday Night, and I wanted it to be heavily charity focused and to involve the whole community.

"We have not had an event like this before, so we have been actively working on getting it off the ground."

Upon arrival, guests will find a welcome table where they can place their canned good or monetary donation. From there, they can explore the different stations set up in the cafeteria and some classrooms.

All of the stations include different projects and information tables.

"There will be stations for things like making bracelets for kids in hospitals and making cards for nursing homes and hospitals along with different games," Wagenaar said.

There will also be the opportunity to learn about different traditions around the world as well as free food and places to donate items and money to Adopt a Family, Tree of Hope and the food drive.

According to Wagenaar, organizing the event has been a rewarding endeavor.

"It's been a great experience being able to work with the Plainwell Christmas Project," she said. "I think that it is super important that students get more involved in their community and these organizations because you learn how to communicate with adults better, you can be more involved within the community and you can help a greater cause."

Wagenaar also noted that everyone is welcome to PCS Holiday Night, not just those who reside in Plainwell or attend Plainwell Community Schools.

"We want as many people to come as possible and see how many donations we can get so we can give back to our community," she said.

PCS
HOLIDAY
NIGHT
Bring a nonperishable food item or monetary donation for entrance
A night full of charity projects, donations, food, learning about different traditions, and games!
Monday 12/15/25
5-8 PM @ Plainwell High School
Open to all ages!
Partnering with The Plainwell Christmas Project
Produced by the High School Student Senate

OMS robotics teams wrap up successful season

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

"How am I going to use this in real life?" or "When will I need this?"

Those are questions many teachers have heard from students over the years.

Members of the two Otsego Middle School robotics teams learned the answer to those questions during the recently concluded season.

OMS science teacher Jen Sutton is one of the robotics coaches.

"As a coach, it is incredible to see students use real-world skills out of the classroom," Sutton said. "They started the season with a brainstorming session and have now turned their ideas of a robot into a fully functioning robot, complete with LED lights."

The season included two competitions and, according to Sutton and the other coaches, a lot of hands-on learning.

Members and coaches of the Otsego Middle School robotics teams competed in two events this fall. (Photo provided)

Both OMS teams—the Robo Dawgs #9311 and the Advanced Skilltronics #9476—worked during the fall to prepare for OMS FIRST Tech Challenge. During this time, they had to design, build and, ultimately, compete with their robots.

The teams' task during the building season was to get their respective robots to complete certain tasks set forth by the FIRST Tech Challenge program.

Their challenge this year, as described by FIRST, is a game where they score green and purple "artifacts" (5-inch balls) by shooting them into their alliance's goal. The students had to be strategic so their robots could pull in the ball, point it at the target and then shoot it to score.

But the game and scoring points weren't the main objective. Rather, it was to provide an environment in which the students could learn "key soft skills that help them in the competition and in life."

"Students also go in front of judges and have a 10-minute interview about the process of the season, community outreach, and more," Sutton said.

Part of that community outreach involved taking the robots to Dix Street Elementary School to give a brief presentation to the members of the fifth-grade classes.

As for the competitions, the first took place on Saturday, Nov. 8, at Ottawa Hills High School in Grand Rapids. The second took place at Fruitport High School on Saturday, Nov. 22.

At Ottawa Hills, the Robo Dawgs placed 12th with a record of 3-2, while the Advanced Skilltronics placed 20th with a record of 2-3. A total of 37 teams participated.

At Fruitport, the Robo Dawgs again placed 12th with a 3-2 record. The Advanced Skilltronics placed 26th with a 2-3 record.

INDEX

Classifieds B7
Puzzles / For The Record B5
Obituaries A9
Viewpoints A6,A7
Community Events A4
Religion B8
Sports B1-B3

Santa highlights Pullman's Christmas celebration

By Deb Laraway & Gari Voss

Santa and Mrs. Claus got to work listening to the wishes of children and handing out about 300 personalized presents thanks to Santa's elves. Photo courtesy of Beautify Pullman

In the Pavilion, volunteers assisted in serving over 675 delicious meals that were prepared by Beautify Pullman caterers David and Greg Bovo Schmokel.

Saturday, December 6, 2025, the lines were long the anticipation great – and then Santa arrived by fire truck! After bringing Christmas lights and joy to the Pullman Town Square, Santa and Mrs. Claus set to work in the corner of the Town Square Gazebo. They delivered almost 300 personalized gifts to Pullman area children.

Meanwhile, in the Pavilion, over 675 delicious meals were served by David and Greg Bovo Schmokel, the Beautify Pullman caterers. Two large, heated tents held seating for dinner, and a fire pit warmed those who felt the chill.

Hot chocolate was served by volunteers from Intercare, and cookies were distributed by Santa's elves.

"The warm glow of community was the end result of weeks of planning, wrapping, cooking, and baking," shared Deb Laraway, Beautify Pullman President. "And the Board of Beautify Pullman felt blessed."

The Lee Township Holiday Social was free and open to the whole community. Visitors could find Trustee Ben Lewis and other volunteers serving meals.

As summed up by Patty Conway, "What an incredible night in Pullman! With Santa and Mrs. Claus, a talented balloon artist, 3 fire trucks, 16 beautifully decorated Christmas trees sponsored by businesses and individuals, 40 amazing volunteers, 675 hot holiday dinners served, 1000 homemade cookies, and gifts for 340 children. The Holiday Social was overflowing with joy. Thank you to everyone who came together to make the magic happen!"

Adelbert Canfield gave hardy kudos, "A big thank you to Beautify Pullman for bringing us all together, and everything they do to help make Pullman all it can be and more. Pullman is a great little town with a lot of good people with big hearts. Together, we can make Pullman one of the best places to live and raise a Family. Once again, thank you Beautify Pullman and everyone who Helped to pull this off and make come together."

Members of the Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce began gathering at the LYNX Golf Course on Thurs., Dec. 4, 2025, at 5pm for the annual Holiday After Hours. Chamber members enjoyed an evening of food, drink, fun, and lots of raffles. Photo: G. Voss

Holiday After-Hours enjoyed by Allegan Chamber members

By Gari Voss

Business owners, employees and friends took time from their busy holiday schedules to gather at the LYNX Golf Course on Thursday, December 4, 2025. The annual gathering, coordinated by Executive Director Taylor Bentley of the Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce, brought together business owners and employees for food, drinks, and games.

Chartreuse Manouche created the ambiance as those in attendance visited, placed bids on Silent Auction items, purchased canned good for Cans of Cheer raffle tickets, or played the Jingle, Jangle Dice Game to win raffle tickets that could be used for prizes. After the Silent Auction closed at 7pm, the Heads or Tails used beaded necklaces to remain in the game.

MICHIGAN ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP
MI Student Aid
FUND YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE
WITH FREE MONEY FOR COLLEGE OR CAREER TRAINING!
The Michigan Achievement Scholarship has funding for every grad, every path — no matter their GPA. Plus, the scholarship is less income-based than you might think. Odds are, your high school senior or recent grad will qualify for free money for:
Community college
Public or private university
Career training
THE FAFSA IS OPEN NOW. JUST FILL IT OUT TO APPLY!
SCAN TO LEARN MORE OR VISIT
mi.gov/ACHIEVEMENT

53 apartments on drawing board, Sweeris to retire

By Gari Voss

During the Monday, December 8, 2025, meeting, the Allegan City Council covered a variety of topics. First, they heard from OnPoint regarding installing a Naloxone Vending Box in the Riverfront bathroom. They scheduled a Public Hearing for January 12, 2026, regarding an apartment complex on Lowe Street. As 2025 comes to a close, the council continued to hear updates from different departments which will assist them as they move into the budgeting process. During this meeting, a presentation was made on the major projects undertaken by the Water Utilities Department and by the Griswold Auditorium. The Allegan City Council received the news that Doug Sweeris, the Water Utilities Director, will be retiring.

SPECIAL REQUEST

Jeana Koerber, Chief Operations Officer of OnPoint, presented a request to place a Naloxone Vending Box at the Riverfront Restroom since this was a place that was more accessible to the public in case of an emergency. This is a nasal application to address the opioid crisis in Michigan and across the United States. OnPoint received a State Opioid Response Grant 4 (SOR4) to install the boxes which will be maintained by the Grand Rapids Red Project, that will continue to check and restock the boxes.

City Manager Joel Dye shared that the city does have two Naloxone Vending Box locations. One is at the riverfront restrooms and the other is at City Hall. If OnPoint places one in the restrooms, the current box will be transferred to the Fire Station.

The request from OnPoint to place a Naloxone Vending Box at the Riverfront Restrooms passed.

REPORTS

City Manager Dye shared the **Airport Advisory Board** meeting. The Board was updated on the construction project that is waiting for the PAPI Baffle Lights that will be shipped next week and installed soon after. The new T hanger is complete and filled. There is a Tie Down Fee for $25 a month, but without a full time person at the airport, there is no one available to collect the fee. The thought is to place a QR code that people who use the tie downs can utilize to pay the fee. Also, the board discussed charging a fee for the helicopter company that does the fall color tours. The fuel nozzle needs attention. More plans were discussed for the Fly-In that will occur on June 20, 2026, from 7am-3pm. Board members expressed a hope that more city employees will hunt deer at the airport.

The Zoning Board of Appeals heard from Jim Horwath and Steve VanderSloot of the Immanuel Lutheran Church that they would like to update their sign, but the new sign is still larger than the ordinance will allow. The Zoning Board suggested that the church be given permission to do the new board though it is non-conforming. The Sterla Properties (Village Market gas station) will appeal the Council's decision to not approve their special use permit to expand the service station onto the county over-flow parking lot. The board was informed that 105 Elm Street has passed inspection and is no longer considered condemned.

The Fire District Board met, and Councilmember Will Walker updated the council. The cost to update the station is $123,296.29 with Dan Voss, but the insurance claim was $102,296.29. The Fire District is checking out the new tanker. The new/used tanker should arrive after the first of the year. Calls were down from October/November 2024. The budget was discussed and deemed acceptable.

Water Utilities

Before Doug Sweeris gave the Annual Water Utilities Report, City Manager Dye announced that Doug a given his notice to retire from his position as Water Utilities Director. Dye has appointed Zachary Kortz as interim director.

Water Utilities Department annual report for 2025 was broken into sections.

The Drinking Water Plant during 2025 has undergone several updates. The plant has pulled 413.08006 million gallons of raw water. It has distributed 310.7603 million gallons of water. The Western Tower was taken out of service for cellular antenna work and was given a paint job. The Water Monster hydration station was shared during July Jubilee and the Sidewalk Sale Days while Bridgefest saw the Source Water Protection tent.

During this year, Allegan received two statewide awards for the Wellhead Protection Program, from Michigan Rural Water Association and Michigan section American Water Works Association. Two new operators are in training, and the department is participating in the yearlong Consumers Energy Demand Response program plus they have completed the EGLE sanitary survey.

The Water Resource Recovery Facility has treated 335.871 million gallons of raw sewage and 240.787 million gallons of domestic sewage. Sweeris feels that the treatment plant has plenty of capacity to accommodate additional business and industry. New employees are being cross trained to cover both the Drinking and Resource Recovery Systems.

The Water Distribution and Collection count does not include the new subdivision on Delano Street. The lead service replacement with Booker funding replaced 426 service lines in Allegan. The department purchased a new sewer push camera. They have begun engineering on utility replacement projects in four neighborhoods. During the year, the staff responded to all water quality concerns and repaired a leaking water valve.

Public Works

The Request to approve PO 26-0844 to Waste Recovery Systems in the amount of $17,680.00 for the storm sewer lining of Hooker Road passed. Two large sink holes have appeared on Hooker Road. Jeff Morrey checked out the problem, and they are related to the storm sewer. The request to purchase passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Payables. The request to approve accounts payable in the amount of $369,978.87 and payroll in the amount of $148,254.99 for a total disbursement of $518,233.86 passed.

1st Quarter Budget Adjustments. The request to adopt Resolution 25.37 to approve FY2026 1st Quarter Budget Adjustments Reports passed. Revenue and expenditure line items were adjusted to comply with various revenue and expenditure items.

Sale of Lowe Property. Request to schedule a public hearing for January 12, 2026, regarding the potential sale of city owned property on Lowe Street to Woda Cooper Companies, LLC passed. Though the Lowe Street parcel is believed to be contaminated, Woda Cooper Companies has worked with contaminated land and is interested in developing it for a 3-story, 53-unit apartment building. The company is working with the Allegan County Community Foundation housing development support team. The property must go through the sale process of Section 13-9 of the City Charter requiring posting the property for three weeks in the newspaper before holding a public meeting on January 12, 2026.

Griswold Auditorium Update. Assistant City Manager Parker Johnson reviewed the Griswold Auditorium Capital Improvement report. Johnson shared that the recent improvement was budgeted for $172,000, and improvements were completed under budget. On December 2, 2025, the city staff learned that ACCF awarded a grant for $8000 to remodel the Marilla Lounge which would expand the improvements that began in 2020. Contracted with Speckled Dahlia, a local interior designer, on Marshal to re-envision this room for a flexible event space. Johnson and his team recommended that the ACCF award, the Lions Club fundraiser of *Escanaba in Da Moonlight*, and the remaining balance from the rehab project budget be utilized to complete the remodel of the Marilla Lounge in 2026.

In 2029, the Griswold will turn 100 years old. There are other improvements that have been suggested in the Griswold Auditorium Facilities Master Plan that can be located online or in the December 8, 2025, City Council Meeting Packet.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Manager Dye reminded the council:

Open House, Tues., Dec. 9, from 5-7pm: the construction project for 2026 including water main on Grand Street, work along Trowbridge, Chestnut, and Walnut Streets, plus the improvements in the Rossman Park neighborhood will be highlighted. The public is encouraged to come and share ideas. Dye felt the Rossman Park project will be a disruptor and there are several concerns to workout.

Wreaths Across America, Sat., Dec. 13th, noon: About 600 wreaths need to be placed in Oakwood Cemetery and the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery need more hands to assist with the placement.

Mon., Dec. 22nd – The city will celebrate Doug Sweeris and thank him for his time with the City of Allegan.

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Councilmember Walker shared that Community Action has offered space for a Warming Center beginning at the end of January.

Councilmember Canales and Mayor Perrigo thanked Doug for all he had accomplished in Allegan and welcomed Zach Kortz.

THOMAS STREET CLINIC
VOTED BEST PHYSICAN/FAMILY DOCTOR IN ALLEGAN COUNTY
NABIL NOUNA, M.D
AMY STEWARD, N.P
JENNIFER VANCE, P.A
Internal Medicine & Family Medicine
ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS
Immediate Appointments are available
Established patients are seen in 1-2 days
Most insurances are accepted
For appointment call
269-673-2179
305 THOMAS STREET, ALLEGAN, MI 49010

ROCK - N - HORSE
ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES
1258 Lincoln Rd. (M89) Allegan, Michigan 49010
{Across from Family Dollar) (269) 3155-1782

Furniture & Decor • Glassware
Knick-Knacks • Military • Primitives
Knives • Books • Toys • Tools • Jewelry
Coins • Stamps • Silver • Memorabilia
Pictures • Paintings • and Much Morel
ROCK SHOP
Rough, Slabs, Cabochon and Display Specimens • Amethyst • Obsidian
Jasper • Sodalite • Petoskey Stones
Copper • Petrified Wood • Quartz
Crystal • Geodes • Opal • Tiger Eye
Agates • Fossils • Meterorites
and the List Goes On!

Open Wednesday through Sunday 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

We sell and install TVs and Home Theaters

Professional instalation at your home or business
A-Tech
COMPUTERS + MORE
311 Hubbard Street
Allegan, MI
(269) 783-5465
atechccs@gmail.com
atechccs.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Old Jail Museum – Holiday Hours: Fri., Dec. 26 & Sat., Dec. 27' 2025, 10am-4pm.
Mon. – Sat. 5-9pm: Warming Station - Good Shepherd 101 N. Walnut, Allegan
Fri., Dec. 12, 2025, 4-8pm: Christmas Market, First Presbyterian Church, 200 Cutler St., Allegan
Fri., Dec. 12, 2025, 5-8pm: Festive Friday – Art Hop. Downtown Allegan
Fri., Dec. 12, 2025, 5pm: Santa & his Reindeer. Allegan District Library, Hubbard St., Allegan
Fri., Dec. 12, 2025, 5-8pm: Council Member Coffee Council. City Hall, Trowbridge St., Allegan
Sun., Dec. 14, 2025, 4-8pm: Tantrick Mug Club Holiday Party. Tantrick Brewing Co., Hubbard St., Allegan
Sun., Dec. 14, 2025, 6pm: Carols by Candlelight. Allegan United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Tues., Dec. 9, 2025, 5-7pm: Rossman Park & Downtown Updates
Allegan City Hall Trowbridge St. Allegan
All are invited to review plans and share ideas for the Rossman Park Neighborhood Project and the downtown street projects.

Tues., Dec. 9, 6:30pm: Meet Anne Frank
L.E. White Middle School 3300 115th Ave. Allegan
Meet Anne Frank thanks to a powerful presentation created by the Middle School students with this traveling _____.

Wed., Dec. 10, 2025, 3:30pm: Teen Cookie Decorating
Allegan District Library Hubbard, Allegan
Students in grades 6-12 can enjoy a sweet treat and friends. Register at 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Dec. 11, 2025, 3:30pm: Santa at Storytime
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
Ages 0-7 can enjoy storytime with Santa.

Thurs., Dec. 11, 2025, 7-8pm: Allegan Jaycee GMM
Sassy Olive Locust St. Allegan
A young professional organization of people 18-40 that provides developmental opportunities to create positive change.

Fri., Dec. 12, 2025, 5-7pm: Hour of AI
Glenn Public School 1392 Adams Rd., Glenn
5-6pm will be dinner at the church, the from 6-7pm, have fun with AI, coding, and robotics. For more information, go to HourofAI.org.

Fri., Dec. 12, 2025, 4-8pm: Christmas Market
First Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan
Shop and enjoy live music, food and gifts.

Fri., Dec. 12, 2025, 5-8pm: Festive Friday – Art Hop
Downtown Allegan will begin with a free movie at 4pm at the Regent Theater and open the doors of businesses to host artists.

Fri., Dec. 12, 2025, 5pm: Santa & his Reindeer
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
Visit the library to meet Santa and his reindeer plus grab some hot chocolate.

Fri., Dec. 12, 2025, 5-8pm: Council Member Coffee Council
City Hall Trowbridge St. Allegan
Come, have hot chocolate, and share ideas with city council members.

Sun., Dec. 14, 2025, 4-8pm: Tantrick Mug Club Holiday Party
Tantrick Brewing So. Hubbard St. Allegan
Celebrate the holidays!

Sun., Dec. 14, 2025, 6pm: Carols by Candlelight
Allegan United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan
Join a night of music and story with a free will offering to benefit the Community Assistance Discretionary Fund.

Mon., Dec. 15, 2025, Library Fun
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
Take-N-Make Crafts begin – Come and grab a craft to take home and make.
6pm: Craftastic: Snow Globe Shaker Holiday Cards – Make a cool craft to take home. Register at 269 673-4625.

Mon., Dec. 15, 2025, 3pm: Grief Support Group
Ransom District Library, 180 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell
Wings of Hope sponsors gathering designed to foster healing and connection.

Wed., Dec. 17, 2025, 5:30-8pm: Pub Quiz Night
Tantrick Brewing Co., Hubbard St., Allegan
Join a fun night of trivia with teams of 4-6.

Fri., Dec. 19, 2025, 5-10pm: Festive Friday –
Downtown Allegan will begin with a free movie at 4pm at the Regent Theater and open the businesses for special food and drinks.

Fri., Dec. 19, 2025, 5-8pm: Council Member Coffee Council
City Hall Trowbridge St. Allegan
Come, have hot chocolate, and share ideas with city council members.

Sat., Dec. 20, 2025, 6pm: Christmas at the Griswold
Griswold Auditorium Hubbard St. Allegan
Join the Allegan Brass Collective and their special guests from the Allegan Community Players at this annual holiday event. There will be singing, skits, a free cookie and punch intermission, and lots and lots of brass holiday music. This is a free show sponsored by the Friends of the Allegan District Library. Doors open at 5:30pm. General admission seating.

Tues., Dec. 23, 2025, 1pm: Grief Support Lunch
Salvino's, 1290 M-89, Plainwell
Wings of Hope invites all to come and connect.

Sun., Dec. 28, 2925, 8:30am-2:30pm: Red Cross Blood Drive
St. Margaret's Church 766 S. Farmer St. Otsego
Schedule at https://www.redcrossblood.org/ or drop in to donate blood, platelets, blood cells or more.

Wed., Dec. 31, 2025, 8pm-midnight: NYE! New Year's Eve Celebration
Downtown Allegan will host an outdoor event featuring massive fire pits, food trucks, hot drinks, live music, a silent disco, ice skating rink, and Michigan's Largest New Year's Eve Ball will drop at the stroke of midnight.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

Grief Support Groups
Wings of Hope invites all to a welcoming and compassionate gathering. 1st Monday of the month – 6-7:30pm, Wings of Hope Office, 530 Linn St., Allegan; 2nd Tues. of each month – 12:30-2pm, United Methodist Church, 322 Maple St., Hopkins; 3rd Monday of each month – 3-4:30pm, Ransom District Library, 189 S. Sherwood Ave., Plainwell; 4th Tues., Grief Support Luncheon, 1pm, Salvino's 1290 M89, Plainwell.

Interfaith Sunday Services
Mothers Trust is a nonprofit that is offering inclusive, interfaith worship services open to all Sundays at 11am at 6676 122nd Ave. Fennville. Information: Megan Hybels 269 312-0369, megan_h@motherstrust.org

Love, Inc.
Love in the Name of Christ 4621 135th Ave. Hamilton
For assistance with food, personal care items, baby needs, household items, clothing, appliances, furniture, bicycles, laundry, showers & Life Skills Wrap Around Care, call 269 751-2533. Visit www.loveincnwa.org., email: office@loveincnwa.org.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentde-paul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

FOOD

Allegan Food Pantry
Church of God, 1313 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
Monday: 10 am–1pm; Tues.: 2–7pm; Fri. 1-4pm
Curbside Service
Contact: Phone: 269 686-6369
Deliveries are made to homebound senior citizens.

Christian Neighbors, SE
282 12th St. Plainwell 269 685-4166

Christian Neighbors, Wayland
122 Church St. Wayland 269 792-2870

Congregational Kitchen - Thursday Dinner Pickup
Congregational Church 325 Cutler Street Allegan
Call (269) 673-3139 after 3pm any Thursday and place an order.
Thursdays: Pick up 3 to 5:30 pm. Takeout dinners only during COVID-19

Epiphany Lutheran Church
4219 Park Land Dorr 616 681-0791

Food Truck - 3rd Friday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30pm
United Church of Wayland
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

The Hands of Grace Food Pantry
United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan 269 673-4236
Tuesday: 9-11:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 9-11:45 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.; Friday: 10-11:45 a.m.
Food Pantry serves FOOD to residents of Allegan 49010 w/valid ID with current address ONLY.

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 Maple St. Hopkins
269 793-7340

Hungry for Christ
4565 135th Ave. Hamilton, 269 264-1307 x1000

Ladders of Hope USA - Food Assistance
717 East Main St, Fennville, MI 49408, www.laddersofhopemi.org., 269-686-6456

Martin Area Resource Center
1445 10th St, Martin (269) 672-5605
No appointment needed. Pick up by one person per household.

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St. Martin 269 672-7097

Mobile Food Pantry, 2nd Monday of the Month: Drive Thru Food Distribution
Casco United Methodist Church 880 66th ST, South Haven MI 49090
Pantry items a pre-packaged. Limit - one box per vehicle.

Project Hope
1808 143rd Ave. Dorr
616 681-4673 appt. only

The Vine Food Pantry / Love, INC
Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave, Allegan, MI · (269) 673-2329

Wayland Farners Market
Apr. – Oct. Wed. & Sat.
Downtown Wayland

THIS AD FOR SALE!
More than 50% of adults have a positive perception of ads in print newspapers.*
Want to be next to trusted content? Place your ad in this newspaper and a network of newspapers in the state!
Call this paper or 800-227-7636
www.cnaads.com *Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018
CNA

We Sell Off Lease Computers!
Desktops Starting at $199.99
Laptops Starting at $299.99
All come with a FREE six-month warranty!
Expert printer repair and other small business services also available
A-Tech COMPUTERS + MORE
311 Hubbard Street Allegan, MI (269) 783-5465
atechccs@gmail.com
atechccs.com

VALLEY CITY MECHANICAL
Commercial & Residential
Serving your neighborhood with experience that began in 1963
• HEATING
• COOLING
• REFRIGERATION
• WATER HEATERS
• RADIENT IN FLOOR
• GEO-THERMAL
• BOILERS
• SMART BUILDINGS
• SERVICE ALL MAKES
Rheem
The new degree of comfort.®
616-591-4786
Check out our Valley City Preventative Maintenance Programs

THE REGENT THEATRE
211 Trowbridge St., Allegan
www.alleganregent.com
269-673-2737

Friday, Dec. 12 - Thursday, Dec. 18
7pm Feature • $5 – Sat. & Sun. 2pm Matinee • $4
Mondays - 2-for-1 Admission • Tuesdays- 25 cent Popcorn
Fa la la la la FRIDAY
THE YEAR WITHOUT A SANTA CLAUS
Friday, Dec. 12 @ 4pm FREE
Sponsored by Allegan County Democrats
FLASHBACK FRIDAY! Sponsored by Honor Credit Union
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (1968) Fri., Dec. 26 @ 9:30pm • $5

Delano Foundation donates nearly $200k to area organizations

The Mignon Sherwood Delano Foundation is pleased to announce that the 2025 Grant Cycle has been completed. The Board expresses their pleasure in having the honor of supporting these worthy and important organizations.

The Directors of the Mignon Sherwood Delano Foundation met Wednesday night, December 3, 2025, with three of this year's grant recipients to announce the Foundation's 2025 grants, and to urge area nonprofit organizations involved in activities encompassed by the Foundation's mission to apply for the 2026 grant cycle. The Foundation's mission is to make a limited number of meaningful grants each year to fund demonstrated, unmet financial needs in pursuit of humanitarian, educational, cultural and environmental goals in Allegan County.

Attending the dinner at The Park Club in Kalamazoo were Cindy Cross, representing Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra; Fred Bueltmann and Ulla Frederiksen, representing Red Horse Center for Collaborative Leadership; and Joan Herrington, representing WMU School of Theatre and Dance.

Board President Bernard Riker announced that the Mignon Sherwood Delano Foundation was honored to distribute $195,102.93 this year. The remaining twenty-three (23) grant recipients were: Allegan County Legal Assistance Center to purchase printing materials; Allegan County Food Pantry to help purchase food for the food pantry; Allegan Homeless Solutions to provide emergency assistance; ARC of Allegan County to purchase a new computer and printer; Baby Closet to assist pregnant women with necessary needs for newborn children; Beautify Pullman to install a Mike Keifer Art Sculpture in Pullman's Town Square; Christian Neighbors of Douglas for the purchase of outerwear and back-to-school items; Christian Neighbors S.E. to help with emergency financial assistance; Congregational Kitchen to undergo a clean room expansion; Good Hands Plainwell to purchase food items for weekly weekend bags; Good Samaritans Blessed Sacrament to offer tangible assistance to the needs of the poor and suffering, including heat, electric and food; Hands of Grace Food Pantry to purchase food and personal care items for the food pantry distributions; Holland Free Health Clinic to help fund essential supplies and denture materials; Hungry for Christ to purchase supplies and food for the Backpack Sharing; K'zoo Folk Life to fund band fees for the 2026 Concerts in the Park; Plainwell First United Methodist Church to purchase items needed for the Free Community Luncheon; Plainwell Volunteer Christmas Project to provide Christmas gifts, personal items, gift/gas cards, and food for needy families in the Plainwell School District; Project Hope to help purchase personal care items for pantry clients; Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center for the ROAR Program; Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build and furnish 28 beds to promote the "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town" program; St. Vincent de Paul to provide financial assistance to the poor and suffering for utility, housing, and other tangible needs; Wings of Hope Hospice for funding the Pain and Symptom Management Program; and Wings Home to purchase and install a gas water heater and gas meter.

The Board expressed its pleasure that the Foundation has the honor of supporting these worthy and important organizations. President Riker emphasized the Board's invitation to all Allegan area-serving nonprofit organizations urging them to apply for 2026 grant cycle next spring.

The deadline for all applications is the second Tuesday in September of every year. In 2026, the deadline will be September 8th. Grant applications are available at our website: www.delanofoundation.com

Winterfest brings hundreds to Felt Mansion in Laketown Twp

Eleanor Hepler let out a gasp and smiled when Erin Alvarez, the artist from Fancy Faces of Grand Haven, held up the mirror to show Hepler her face painted with snowflakes and glitter.

The 7-year-old in her holiday dress with candy cane prints was continuing her Saugatuck family's tradition of enjoying Winterfest at the Felt Mansion on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, in Laketown Township.

Her dad said the family has been coming to the free community event since Eleanor and her sister were a year old. Hundreds of people joined them on Saturday at the mansion, 6597 138th Ave. for free tours, snacks and gift bags, music by the Holland Chorale Dickens Singers, a chance to pet reindeer, ride a horse-drawn wagon and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The event was sponsored by the Laketown Township Parks and Recreation Commission.

Winterfest helps kick off the holidays at the mansion.

Holiday tours

Guided and self-guided tours are available throughout December.

The mansion is decorated with more than 60 Christmas trees and 50,000 lights and candles for the holidays. Garlands and wreaths adorn the mantles, staircases and doors.

Erin Alvarez, left, of Fancy Faces of Grand Haven, shows Eleanor Hepler, 7, of Saugatuck, her face painted with snowflakes and glitter at Winterfest on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, at the Felt Mansion, 6597 138th Ave.

A large family gathers around Santa and Mrs. Claus for a holiday photo at Winterfest on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, at the Felt Mansion, 6597 138th Ave.

Self-Guided Tours: 4-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 10 and 17; Monday, Dec. 29; Tuesday, Dec. 30; and Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026. Adults (18 and up) $18, Seniors (60 and up) $15, Adolescents (8-17) $12; Children (7 and under) free.

Coffee & Cocoa Self-Guided Tours: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28; and Saturdays Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, 2026. Adults (18 and up) $20, Seniors (60 and up) $18, Adolescents (8-17) $15; Children (7 and under) free.

Tea & Tours (Guided): 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursdays, Dec. 11 and 18. Tickets $25.

Candlelight Guided Tours: 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Fridays, Dec. 12, 19, 26 and Jan. 2, 2026. Tickets $25.

Self-guided tours last about an hour and tour booklets are available at check-in. Self-guided tour admission can be reserved online or paid upon arrival.

Guided tours must be reserved online, and typically last one to one-and-a-half hours.

Follow Laketown Township on Facebook, Instagram and Threads.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS
OF IMPACT in Allegan County
For 60 years, the Allegan County Community Foundation (ACCF) has been investing in what matters most—our people, our places, and our future. We support every corner of Allegan County with the programs and partnerships that help our communities thrive.
Whether it's:
Supporting local nonprofits and schools
Providing scholarships and youth leadership opportunities
Expanding access to books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Helping families build brighter futures through My Future Fund
ACCF is here to turn generosity into action. We manage more than 200 charitable funds and connect donors, volunteers, and organizations to create lasting, local impact.
Proudly serving Allegan County since 1965.
Learn more or get involved at alleganfoundation.org
VIEW FUNDS
Allegan County Community Foundation
Impacting Community. For Good. For Ever.

SAVINGS COUPON
See us for sending your holiday cards & gifts!
FOREVER STAMPS
Sheet of 20: $15
Roll of 100: $75
10 book limit per family. Limit 5 Rolls Per Customer
While supplies last. MUST PRESENT COUPON
GOIN' POSTAL
Your Friendly Neighborhood Shipping Center
LOCATED NEAR WALMART!
Goin' Postal is an authorized Post Office, UPS, FedEx and DHL Service Center!
For all your shipping needs!
409 Oaks Crossing, Plainwell • 269-685-8015
Coupon Expires: January 31, 2026

WRAY'S
SEPTIC TANK & DEVELOPMENT CO.
FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS...
We are wishing you a happy and merry holiday season!
Meeting All of Your Septic Service Needs
(269) 673-4791 • 1148 Lincoln Road, Allegan • wrayssepticco.com

Opinion: Road Rage Is Killing Us — Literally

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX

■ PUBLISHER ■

I've written about road rage before, but nothing prepared me for the horrifying incident that unfolded in our Morning Star/Recorder area over the holiday weekend. It was, without question, one of the most senseless and tragic episodes I've ever encountered — the kind of incident that forces every one of us to take a hard look at our own behavior behind the wheel.

A 22-year-old Concord man is dead. Not because of icy roads, or a mechanical failure, or a momentary lapse in attention — but because two drivers allowed anger to override judgment.

Michigan State Police detailed what happened:

On Nov. 28, around 6:07 p.m., troopers responded to a chaotic scene along M-60 and N. Main Street. Two vehicles — a Chevy Malibu driven by the young Concord man and a Jeep Cherokee driven by a 24-year-old Parma man — had engaged in a road-rage confrontation. Both drivers pulled onto the shoulder. Both got out. And then, disastrously, both began physically fighting in the roadway.

While they were brawling in the traffic lane, a westbound Ram 1500 came upon them. The 62-year-old Hanover man behind the wheel had no chance to avoid impact. Both men were struck. One died. The other survived with non-life-threatening injuries. Police say neither alcohol nor drugs played a role.

Witnesses disagree on what sparked the altercation — who cut off whom, who brake-checked, who shouted first. But here's the truth that matters: none of that changes the outcome. A young life is gone. A family is shattered. And for what? A moment's anger? Bruised pride? A refusal to let something go?

Accounts suggest that the Jeep, carrying a family returning from hunting, pulled onto M-60. The Chevy pulled out behind them. Tempers flared. Someone didn't like someone else's driving. Words — or gestures — were exchanged. Both drivers made the fatal decision to pull over near the old Jenks Oil Station and escalate the confrontation.

A fight broke out on the high ground near the Concord Mill Pond, eventually spilling onto the roadway. Seconds later, the Ram appeared — and tragedy followed.

A woman who arrived shortly afterward described consoling the distraught passenger of the Chevy. "I felt sorry for her," she said. "Hugged her. Told her it's okay." She watched as CPR was performed on the young man for 15 agonizing minutes. She will undoubtedly carry that image with her for the rest of her life. So will many others.

If anyone still believes road rage is some exaggerated talking point, this incident stands as undeniable proof of its deadly reality.

We *must* teach our teenagers — in driver's training and at home — that retaliating on the road is never acceptable. You don't settle disagreements with a stranger's driving. You don't pull over to "set someone straight." You don't follow, confront, threaten, or escalate. Ever.

All of us make mistakes behind the wheel. New drivers misjudge gaps or turns. Seniors may drive more slowly out of caution. Others may be anxious from past accidents. None of these deserve a horn-blaring tirade, a shouted insult, or a roadside fistfight.

We must do better. As motorists. As citizens. As human beings.

The next time irritation rises — when someone merges too slowly, brakes too quickly, or forgets a turn signal — choose restraint over rage. Let it go. Take a breath. Remember this young man, and remember that no moment of anger is worth a life.

One family will never see their son again because two people forgot that simple truth.

Let this be the last time we read a story like this.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

When I was younger five or six deacades ago, Christmas did not seem to come so early. We followed a stately procession of months, holidays and family celebrations.

All came in an orderly fashion. Christmas did not begin right after Labor Day, Halloween or the fifth of July. We waited, albeit impatiently, until at least the day after Thanksgiving.

Perhaps Santa's little helpers, affectionately known as The Olds, got an early start, but my sister and I were never to know of such activities. They happened when we were in school or after our bedtime.

The Olds were so cruel that they even confiscated the gift books — the Sears, Wards, JC Penny and even my favorite, the Western Auto catalogues — from us. They promised that if we were good, helpful and well-behaved on Thanksgiving, we could look at them the next morning.

On that Friday, the Grinch (my nickname for my younger sister) and I rose early, dressed and hurried down to the dining room. There on the table were the all-exciting books, and next to them a pad of paper and pencil for each of us. We were to print out our wish list which they assured us would be mailed to Santa, c/o the North Pole, on Dec. 1.

I wanted to save the old boy a lot of work, so I wrote, "Santa, one of everything, please," but Grinchy said it didn't work that way. I had to go through the books and pick out specific requests.

Even when December finally arrived, Christmas was slow out of the staring gates. For the first few days all we could do was take turns opening one Advent Calendar window each day.

Remember, this was back in the austere and deprived days when there was no morsel of cheap and tasteless chocolate as a reward. Inside the window du jour was another little picture.

Meanwhile, The Olds had their own calendar. It was a real one, not some pouncy one from Dee's 76 Gas Station. Mother had a hardcover one from the New Yorker, a subscription and gift she received each year from an aunt living in Boston's Back Bay.

That is where she kept track of all the activities ranging from the Odd Fellows Lodge Christmas Party to the children's Christmas pageant at the Methodist Church, to the day when she would drive to the Episcopal Church to buy a year's supply of fruitcake. (I still have a couple of 2-lb. bricks in the freezer.)

Mother recorded when Santa would make a cameo appearance in the toy department on the fourth floor at Dayton's Department Store, parades, school activities and dinner parties. There were a lot of dinner parties — something The Olds said they loved doing but left them exhausting after.

She scheduled when we would decorate the tree and house, make cookies and wrap presents (always under adult supervision ever since I tried gift-wrapping the Grinch in hopes of exchanging her at a school party.)

Thanks to her work, everything fell into place. Well, almost. Schools were closed for a day because of an old-fashioned blizzard that slipped in on us.

Or when my sister came down with the sniffles, or the year the cousin of an aunt interrupted all Mother's plans by falling off her perch. Permanently, with the funeral three days later.

Only now do I realize how hard The Olds worked at making Christmas special. I know many carry on that tradition for their children and the grands.

If you happen to see one in action, perhaps looking a bit haggard and harried, say something nice to her or him. It will be much appreciated. Besides, Santa is watching to see who is naughty and nice.

I have also come to appreciate the importance of traditions. There is something special being able to say, "We *always* decorated the tree two weeks before Christmas." Little things like that are part of our private heritage, deeply ingrained into our DNA and bring a tickle to our heart when they slip back to the forefront of our mind.

Our family's really big Christmas traditions were based on our connection with the Methodist church. Mother was the Sunday school co-director along with her best friend. That meant at this time of year they rode herd over children in the Christmas pageant.

It also meant Father and I took our turn at the outdoor live nativity scene. On those nights we wore our heaviest winter clothes, donned a bunch of wooly robes and tied it in place with a piece of rope. We put on an itchy wool beard, somehow fastened onto a wire that hooked over our ears, and then a wool headpiece.

With shepherd's big wooden crooks in hand, we stood outside in a paddock with two ultra-aromatic sheep and a sad donkey named "Josie." The object of the exercise was to look sufficiently holy while people drove by.

I'm not sure of the goal. It couldn't have been meditation and reflection, because back then Methodists didn't talk much about that sort of thing. And if it was to evangelize nonbelievers, well, I don't think it worked all that well.

We just did it, and every year Father and I would sign up, eager to share the tradition together. Most years we finished our 90-minute shifts silently vowing never to do this again. Ever. We always did, and I wish we could again this year.

Those memories of traditions are important to each of us. They remind us we need to carefully look at our present life and the legacy we want to leave to our little tax exemptions and their children.

I know one tradition that is meaningful to many people, whether they are church members or not, is to attend a Christmas Eve service. Of course, some feel awkward about walking into a church they haven't visited since Easter morning.

Will the cleric warmly welcome them, or make some slighting remark about people who only come twice a year? And worst of all, what if they inadvertently sit in someone else's pew?

You know what? If a Christmas Eve service is part of your tradition, or something you have even the slightest scintilla of hope that it might be meaningful, GO! Walk through the door and remember the old line from the musical "Oliver": "Consider yourself well in. Consider yourself part of the family."

You realize, don't you, that you just made yourself part of their tradition? At this time of the year, that is a very wonderful gift.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't forget military personnel this holiday season

Dear Editor:

As our servicemen and women stand guard around the world, they make a sacrifice that goes unspoken: the absence of the sights, sounds, and comforts of the holidays most of us take for granted.

I grew up with the smells of pumpkin pie, turkey, and fresh baked bread. Christmas decorations festooned the home, and lights twinkled merrily. The mystery of what presents (or maybe coal) we would get was the subject of endless speculation. Christmas music was everywhere. Friends and family stopped by with smiles, laughter, and cheer. The snow may have been falling, the cold penetrating, and the darkness threatened to overwhelm, but the spirit of Christmas chased it all away.

At 18 I found myself away from home for the first time, stationed in Germany with the U.S. Army. In the barracks there were no twinkling lights, no presents, no cheer, no pie made with love from grandma, no Christmas tree, no Nativity scene. There were neither friends nor family. Rather than the aroma of fresh bread, it was the smell of diesel fuel; and instead of Christmas music it was the clanking and squeaking of tanks. There was some cheer, but it was the forced kind, the kind that appeared after several bottles of Hefeweizen or Pilsner (beer) had been drunk. That Christmas Eve, I trudged the streets of the sleepy German town nearby with its grey, overcast skies -- feeling morose, despondent, dispirited-and missing home.

Today the advent of the internet has ameliorated some of the loneliness not only for our men and women overseas, but for the parents, spouses, and children who miss their loved ones desperately. However, video chat can still not completely replace actually being HOME.

To all the soldiers and military families who stand guard against our adversaries around the world so that we can enjoy freedom, family, and comfort, I know you are thinking of home. Please know that home is thinking of you.

TD Moore

Viewpoints

Dear Editor:

Just in time for the United States and World Christmas and Holiday Celebrations, Viewpoints articles generated excitements beyond expectations, Happy Times. The stewardship is stupendous, phenomenal; it's extraordinary; it's historical successes. Activities of legislation, mandates, … and policies highlight Michigan Democrats, now known as the Democratic Socialists, priorities. Coincidentally missing are the public and celebrated accomplishments; to acknowledge their continued successes, see the short summary list below:

It's the stupendous ideas of cultural transformation and activities for working people that count. Only yesterday Drag Queens were in children's kindergartens, biological males could and would become Pregnant, ... and all 300 claimed genders were welcome in the girls, ladies, or men's dressing rooms, bathrooms, … anyplace.

Having Government investigate personal phone conversations and interviewing Christian Pastors looking for Terrorists in their parishes/congregations was normal. Well, that's OK. Got to find and root out those Religious Terrorists.

Indifference toward degenerate pornographers and purveyors of child sex trafficking is unimportant.

Perhaps, persons who care about the Epstein files, Epstein the dead guy, are just disappointed they missed out. Everyone knows pornography and child sex trafficking is a big business, very profitable.

How about celebrating Senators Peters and Slotkin voting records. They ignore only half of Michiganders. The **D** next to their names tells the complete story of solidarity. Just yesterday, Senator Slotkin via a nationally broadcast video encouraged the United States Military to ignore the Government's chain of command. Senator Slotkin is just behaving like a Revolutionist intending to update/redo that nasty White-Supremacist U. S. Constitution. It's all advanced forms of Free Speech; say anything, it's Free; no accountability too. After all, got to keep the Transformation going.

No worries, those non-invited persons, illegals, living in Michigan are just on vacation, eating, drinking driving, … and living at your expense.

Michigan Democratic Socialists long for the good old days of only a few months ago; Happier Days.

Philip Zamlynski

Reject bills that will harm independent farmers

To the Editor of the Allegan County News & Union Enterprise:

As a former regenerative agriculture farmer in Michigan, I remain deeply committed to responsible, independent agriculture. States must retain the right to support farmers who prioritize quality and ethical practices. That's why I was alarmed to learn about federal efforts to dismantle key state agricultural laws, including California's Proposition 12. Federal legislation like the Food Security and Farm Protection Act and the Save Our Bacon Act are misleadingly titled and would strip states of the ability to set standards that reflect their communities' values. It is imperative for the future of responsible and sustainable agriculture that these bills DO NOT become law.

During my years as a Michigan shepherd, I prioritized the well-being of my sheep. I saw firsthand how our state's anti-confinement law - which phases out the practice of confining hens, calves, and pigs in tiny cages - aligned with public demand for more humane and transparent farming. These reforms mirror the intent behind Prop 12 by codifying commonsense confinement standards to ensure animals have adequate space to move. Michigan's law, like Prop 12, represents a broader movement toward transparency, humane farming, and consumer trust in our food system.

These federal bills threaten to erase this progress in California, Michigan, and many other states. They would override voter-approved laws, silence states, and reward large-scale, industrial, animal confinement operations that resist transparency and accountability. Farmers had years to adapt to higher standards. Those who chose not to should not be allowed to roll back the progress others embraced.

I urge Senators Peters and Slotkin, Representative Huizenga, and all lawmakers to stand with independent farmers, with voters, and with states that are striving to do the right thing. Reject these harmful bills, oppose attempts to add these bills into the upcoming Farm Bill, and protect the future of sustainable agriculture by safeguarding Prop 12 and similar laws.

Sincerely,
Brian J. Smith
Former Michigan Farmer
and Concerned Citizen

Need a news format to fit your busy lifestyle?

WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE

Whether it's print, online or the e-edition!

wilcoxnewspapers.com

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

© The Allegan County News, 2025

P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St.
Allegan, MI 49010-0189 (269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Allegan County News. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $55 per year in county; $55 per year in Michigan; $70 out of state; Foreign rates upon request. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010. Postal Publication No. 013-700. Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Allegan County News, P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010-0189.

The Otsego & Plainwell UNION ENTERPRISE

© The Union Enterprise, 2025

P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan, MI 49010-0189
(269) 673-5534
e-mail: Wilcoxnewspapers@gmail.com Web site: www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

Published weekly by The Union Enterprise. R. Michael Wilcox publisher. Subscriptions: $55 per year in Allegan County. $55 in Michigan; $70 out of state. Periodicals postage paid at Allegan, MI 49010 and at additional mailing office Postal Publication No. 413600. Postmaster: Send address corrections to Union Enterprise, P.O. Box 189, 241 Hubbard St., Allegan MI 49010

R. Michael Wilcox, Publisher
Jason Wesseldyk, High School Sports Editor
Julie Hotchkiss, Accounts Receivable
Matt Gliwa, Graphic Artist
Jordan Wilcox, IT Support
Lynn Jensen - Sales

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Member

ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

The Allegan County News and Union Enterprise will in no case be responsible for typographical or other errors, but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which a typographical error occurs. The publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any material at any time. The right is reserved to reject, omit or edit any material offered for publication.

Letters to the Editor

Happy Yuletide, Y'all:
A Joyous, All-Welcome Call Across the Winter World**

Dear Editor:

There are holiday greetings that sparkle.

There are ones that jingle.

And then there are those rare felicitations that burst from the tongue like a warm laugh near a glowing hearth.

Enter the fabulous, festive, irresistibly friendly phrase:

Happy Yuletide, Y'all.

It's not just a greeting.

It's a gesture—a linguistic hug wearing a scarf.

It's the sort of phrase that can only be spoken with a smile, a twinkle in the eye, and maybe the faint aroma of hot cocoa lingering in the background. It sweeps across the room, the street, or the world with the friendliness of a neighbor who brings cinnamon rolls without being asked.

But this is not merely a charming bit of holiday banter. Oh no.

"Happy Yuletide, Y'all" is a declaration.

A philosophy.

A beautifully inclusive winter manifesto.

I. The Magic of Yuletide

"Yuletide" is one of those marvelously ancient words that feels as though it has survived on charm alone. It is older than carols, older than Victorian Christmas cards, older even than the inflatable yard Santas who have sadly become our modern forest guardians.

Yuletide reaches back through European winter traditions—Nordic, Germanic, and Celtic celebrations of light, warmth, feasting, community, and the relentless hope that spring will indeed return.

It is a word soaked in culture, not dogma.

Which means it is a perfect umbrella for all manner of people to stand under without getting rained on by theological qualifications.

II. The Beauty of "Y'all"

And then we arrive at the second half of this linguistic masterpiece:

"Y'all."

Few syllables in the English language carry as much inclusive warmth as this one.

It is a word without pretension, a word with open arms.

Y'all is not exclusive.

Y'all is not fussy.

Y'all does not require a flowchart to determine eligibility.

Y'all says:

"Everyone here is welcome. And that includes you."

It's the kind of word that is already passing you the mashed potatoes before you even sit down.

III. The Greeting for All Hearths, All Homes, All Hearts

"Happy Yuletide, Y'all" is the felicitation equivalent of pulling up another chair to the table.

It honors the joy of many cultures:

The Christian celebration of the Christ who brings light into the world.

The Jewish festival of Hanukkah, whose candles blaze against the dark.

The African-American celebration of Kwanzaa, grounded in unity and community.

The pagan and earth-based traditions that honor the winter solstice, the rebirth of the sun.

The secular warmth of cocoa, cookies, and kindness shared with neighbors and friends.

The simple human longing for togetherness when the nights grow long and the temperatures drop.

It is a phrase that neither dilutes your beliefs nor dismisses someone else's.

It simply opens the door and declares that the light is big enough for all of us.

IV. From My Hearth to Yours

For my part, I am a Christian who gently, gladly believes that Christ came down at Christmas.

That the Light entered the world.

That hope put on skin and walked among us.

But I do not believe this hope is meant to be hoarded.

My world is filled with neighbors, colleagues, and dear friends whose beliefs differ from mine.

And yet we share something deeper than doctrine:

We share our humanity.

We share our love.

We share the desire to belong and to give one another warmth in the cold.

So when I say "Happy Yuletide, Y'all," what I mean is:

Come in from the chill.

Sit by the fire for a while.

Let's celebrate the beauty of winter, the gift of family, the joy of kindness, and the wonder of being alive together on this turning planet.

This greeting belongs to you just as truly as it belongs to me.

Jay Kurtis Oetman

Friend shouldn't have been jailed because of medical condition

Dear Editor:

Amy a dedicated single mother, Found herself in a difficult situation when a medical condition hindered her ability to fulfill her Community Service obligations. The court mandated her to this service as part of her sentencing for a prior offense. However, after a slip and fall accident during one of her weekend services, it became clear to the program supervisor Mary Teresa Carlson,if Amy completed the assigned tasks it would pose to great of a risk to her health as well as to the safety of her home environment if she were to finish her seven weekends remaining.

From this, Judge Antkoviak made a decision, that is stirring up a considerable debate. He unfortunately sentenced Amy to 21 days in jail, due to her inability to complete the 7 weekends remaining . Rather than considering the mitigating factors that Amy suffers from a medical condition she cannot help, He labeled her noncompliant and opted for incarceration.

Now, this decision to jail Amy, raises important issues regarding the treatment of individuals who suffer from medical conditions within the judicial system. By choosing Imprisonment over alternative

penalties, such as an adjustment to her community service or additional fines, Judge Antkoviak may have overlooked the broader implications of his ruling. Imprisonment can exacerbate the struggles by those already dealing with disabilities, Impacting their mental health, Financial stability, and family dynamics.

Moreover, this case exemplifies A systematic issue, we're individuals with disabilities, often find themselves at a disadvantage, unable to navigate legal requirements that do not take their unique circumstances into account. Critics are arguing that the Judge should have prioritized rehabilitation and support not only for Amy but for all. Especially, for those affected by health issues rather than imposing punitive measures, that can destabilize their lives even further.

Sincerely,
Baylee Ball, a deeply concerned citizen of Allegan County

Left should stop whining, support America First

Dear Editor,

Despite one hard-earned victory after another the progressive left and mainstream media continue to misinform the American public on our nations state of affairs. I believe to date President Trump has brokered eight peace treaties around the world. The most current domestic and foreign financial commitments in the U.S total in the neighborhood of $9.6 trillion dollars. While CBS tells us how soft the U.S. economy is, according to Forbes, a record breaking $14.6 Billion in combined Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales was realized. This represents a 27% increase from 2024. And as of today, U.S. West Texas oil is $59.45 per barrel and you can get regular gas in South Haven today for $2.62 per gallon.

But the America Last liberals continue to decry every American victory while supporting those throughout the world endeavoring to destroy our Republic. The new Democrat party isn't even attempting to provide intelligent solutions; their sole plan is to obstruct any effort on the part of President Trump in hopes of resurrecting our nation. It is far too obvious and frightening that liberals will support any and all enemies of our nation to thwart Republican efforts. They align with Antifa, Hamas, Muslim Brotherhood, by and large all Muslim extremists, communists and the one world order oligarchs like George Soros. Historically the two primary destructive forces of civilization and human life throughout the world have been Islam and communism and the new Democrat party has embraced both. Pseudo-intellectuals will say that they are Democratic Socialists, as if that is supposed to be a significant difference. Any variation of socialism is still socialism and in the words of Vladimir Lenin who was responsible for between 9-50 million deaths "The goal of socialism is communism." For democrats that still believe there is any integrity left in their party, John Bachtell, past chairman of the Communist Party USA stated "American communists are eager to work with the Democratic party to advance the modern communist agenda and achieve communist goals."

Not satisfied with open borders, rampant crime and supporting the election of communists and radical Muslims in our nation, six elected democrats have publicly suggested that military service members defy orders they may deem to be unlawful.

The left is now whining about our military destroying cartel vessels and their occupants in international waters, transporting drugs into our nation. They have no concern for 23-year-old Iryna Zarutska who was butchered on a train by a serial criminal while several passengers simply looked on. Then there's Bethany Ma-Gee who was doused in gasoline and set on fire by another habitual offender on a Chicago train. Liberal activist judges continue to release violent predators who continue to commit murders, rapes, abductions and assaults on American children, women and men. Violence in America has become an acceptable tool of the new Democrat party as we witnessed most recently with the cowardly shooting of two National Guard member in D.C. The left justifies these assaults on American citizens who oppose their agenda, while mainstream media does their best to bury the stories.

Now the left is floating the conspiracy theory that Trump wants to invade Venezuela for their oil. What a joke, we have more oil in the U.S. than we can use or sell in several lifetimes. The fact is, Russia had been looking for a partner in the western hemisphere and in 2006 found that partner in Venezuela, to manufacture small arms and ammunition and operate as their satellite. Last week Russia began evacuation of their citizens from Venezuela. Perhaps President Trump can put an end to this unholy alliance before turning Venezuela into a 340,000 square mile parking lot. Remember, 23 years ago young people in Venezuela were cheering for Chavez and socialism and today their children are eating out of trash cans.

What the media refuses to admit is that President Trump is doing exactly what the majority of Americans expect of him and this is why we voted for him for president. Most of us, and more, would do it again.

America has been fighting radical Islam since the late 18th century and we have been fighting communists and their proxies around the world since the middle of the 20th century. Combined they now comprise primary elements of the new Democrat base. Quite simply Islam and communism are not compatible with our Judeo-Christian Constitutional Republic.

Recently I read some tripe about how Republicans need to grow a spine and reject Trump's efforts. Although this un-American attitude is deplorable, I do agree that Republicans as well as patriotic Democrats should all collectively grow a spine and support our nation's America First agenda. Refuse to be intimidated by the bullying of the left. When liberals are unable to justify their position, they will call you names; racist, transphobic or islamophobia, so what. When a liberal calls you names it's no different than a 6-year-old calling someone a poopyhead simply because they lack the intellectual capacity for mature discourse.

John R. Young

Do the
Local Thing
Shopping in town helps local shops, cafes and restaurants, and the business owners who make them unique! When you shop local the whole community benefits.
ShopLocal

SUPPORTING THE JOURNEY
Something Needs to Change
You don't have to do it alone. When staying at home is no longer the best option for your aging loved one, Golden Orchards can help you navigate the journey. Like an extension of your family, we offer expert guidance and heartfelt support every step of the way.
Our dedicated team will take the time to understand your loved one's needs and preferences and create a personalized plan that helps them live their best life. Through compassionate care, engaging activities, and a welcoming community, we will help your family embrace this new chapter with confidence.
Schedule a visit with us this month and enjoy a complimentary dinner for two.
269-737-6867
Golden Orchards
MANAGED BY COMMONWEALTH SENIOR LIVING
Assisted Living & Memory Care
2464 55th Street, Fennville, Michigan 49408
Great Place To Work. Certified
www.CommonwealthSL.com

ALLEGAN COUNTY
Senior Services
Independence Through Transportation Services
Senior Transportation
Seniors who no longer feel comfortable driving can access this service for medical, legal appointments, shopping, and errands. Depending on mobility needs, transportation is available on wheelchair-accessible buses or through volunteer drivers who assist with home entry, exiting, and carrying packages.
Call 269-686-5164 to arrange for this service. Please allow 3-5 business days advance notice for scheduling.
If you or a family member is in need of support services please visit: www.allegancounty.org/Referral or call: (269) 673-3333

Wayland Union High School culminated their West Michigan Legislative Debate League season in fantastic fashion. The monthly competitions award points to participants, and when the points were tallied, Wayland Union High School demonstrated a wonderful showing. Pictured: A. Varney, 8th place (WUHS); E. Pogodzinski (WUHS), 7th place; A. Rohde (WUHS), 6th place; P. Ward (WUHS), 5th place; G. Schmidtman (WUHS), 4th place; S. Pennington (Ionia HS), 3rd place; E. Elzinga (Caledonia HS), 2nd place; and 1st place G. Klug (WUHS). Photo: Andrea Brown

Wayland shines in West Michigan Legislative High School Debate League

By Andrea Brown, Wayland Union High School Debate Coach and Teacher & G. Voss

The West Michigan Legislative Debate League celebrated a season of exceptional achievement across its participating schools. Students in the league compete in legislative debate - a variation of student congress in which competitors research issues, write legislation for the docket, and debate in chambers that simulate a mock congress. Through this experience, debaters gain real-world skills in research, persuasive writing, public speaking, critical listening, and argumentation.

The West Michigan Legislative Debate League is growing. 75 students from six participating schools - Caledonia, Grand Rapids City, Ionia, Portage Central, Watervliet, and Wayland - with Wayland Union High School serving as the host school for the monthly competition. At each meet, eight students have the opportunity to earn awards for outstanding speaking, as well as recognition for exceptional Presiding Officers and Top Novice (first-year debater).

The season concludes with a cumulative awards ceremony, where trophies are presented based on total points earned across all competitions. This year's results were extraordinary, with students from across the league earning numerous distinctions. This is an impressive milestone in the world of legislative debate.

This year, the final awards were presented to the following students:

A. Varney, 8th place (WUHS)
E. Pogodzinski (WUHS), 7th place
A. Rohde (WUHS), 6th place
P. Ward (WUHS), 5th place
G. Schmidtman (WUHS), 4th place
S. Pennington (IHS), 3rd place
E. Elzinga (CHS), 2nd place
G. Klug (WUHS) awarded 1st place

The top Presiding Officer for the league was M. Oosterhouse (WUHS), and the Top Novice was G. Schmidtman (WUHS).

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

SALUTE TO CHARITIES AND NON-PROFITS:

THE GIVING SPIRIT OF ALLEGAN COUNTY

As the holiday season arrives, a renewed sense of generosity can be felt across Allegan County. From Christmas fund drives to winter coat collections, local charities and non-profit organizations work quietly to make sure every family feels the warmth of the season. They provide meals, gifts, and essential assistance that might otherwise be out of reach, and they do so with compassion that reflects the best of our communities.

During the colder months, the work of these organizations becomes especially important. They help families facing financial challenges, support seniors living alone, and bring comfort to neighbors experiencing hardship. Many also partner with churches, businesses, and civic groups to expand their reach, creating a network dedicated to helping those who need extra care this time of year.

Holiday giving takes many forms. Volunteers wrap presents for children, donors contribute to food drives, and local service groups organize events that brighten spirits throughout December. These acts of kindness ensure the season's joy is shared widely, from the lakeshore communities to Allegan's smallest rural neighborhoods. Behind every donation or wrapped gift is a volunteer whose dedication makes a meaningful difference in someone's life.

Charities and non-profits remind us that the holidays are not only about celebration, but about caring for one another. While festive lights shine across Allegan County, these organizations shine in their own way, offering hope, comfort, and support during a time when many families feel the strain of winter expenses. Their work strengthens the bonds that tie our communities together, not only in December, but throughout the year.

Even in difficult economic times, Allegan County continues to show remarkable generosity. Local residents give whatever they can, whether it is a few dollars, a bag of groceries, or an afternoon of volunteer work. These gifts may seem small, yet they add up to something extraordinary when combined with the dedication of non-profit staff and volunteers.

At Allegan County News, Commercial Record, and Union Enterprise, we extend our gratitude to every charity and non-profit working to bring holiday cheer to our communities. Today, we salute their dedication, generosity, and heartfelt commitment to the well-being of our neighbors. They remind us that the true spirit of the season begins with the simple act of giving.

THIS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

ACR Heating
Berkshire Hathaway
Bill Underdown / Century 21 Affiliated
Boniface
Brock Towing
Dunes View Kwik Shop
H & R Block
Hartman Ellis
Hopkins Propane
James Brandess Studios & Gallery, Inc
Kabri Martyniek / State Farm Insurance
Mark Bekken / Saugatuck Harbor Insurance
Rapa
Tammy Kerr / Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate
Uni-Pac
Waanders
Wrays

Survey seeks answers on substance abuse

By Gari Voss

Substance use and abuse have been hot topics for years. When examining statistics from several notable sources, health officials, educators, and parents are wanting to know more about the problem and possible solutions in Michigan, and specifically Allegan County.

The National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics reports that 51.2% of people over 12 have used illicit drugs at least once. 1.15% drug overdoses have killed over 1 million people in the U.S. since 1999. $44.5 billion was allocated from the federal budget for drug control in 2024.

Examining the findings more carefully, drug use among 8th graders increased 30% between 2016 and 2020. 41.7% of 12th graders surveyed had abused alcohol sometime in their lives. 36.8% of teenagers have misused a drug at least once by the 12th grade. Though much of the drug abuse can be related to alcohol and marijuana, the illicit substances of choice like fentanyl and opioids have grown far more serious.

Digging into the deadlier drugs, fentanyl users factored into 69.3% of overdose deaths. About 0.007% of an ounce of fentanyl can cause certain death. Statistics indicated that 72,776 fentanyl overdose deaths occurred in 2023 alone. Add to this, the opioid addiction statistics with 80,000 people dying each year from opioid overdose with nearly 9 million people misusing opioids each year. Opioids are associated with at least 7 out of every 10 overdose deaths.

To better understand the problems of drug use and the difficulties in kicking the addiction, it is important to go to the source - the users and those dealing with users, and with the providers who are addressing the problems. The Allegan County government has collaborated with the Michigan State University team at the Technical Assistance Collaborative and is seeking to hear from those impacted by substance use disorder within the community.

MSU is conducting a survey of those with lived experience, aka dealing with substance use disorder, and the people directly impacted by substance use disorder, such as family and friends. Those who know someone who fits this description can contact Lauren Hunt-VanderPloeg at the Allegan County Community Foundation lvanderploeg@alleganfoundation.org for the link or QR code. The link is not posted on social media as MSU is trying to limit bot response. There is a $25 Amazon gift card incentive for the first 50 responders.

In addition to those with lived experience, MSU wants to learn more from providers. Those who work with people who have substance use disorder, or are impacted by substance use disorder, are encouraged to contact Lauren Hunt-VanderPloeg at the Allegan County Community Foundation, lvanderploeg@alleganfoundation.org for the link or QR code.

Otsego principal named Bridgman superintendent

The Bridgman Public Schools Board of Education has selected Otsego High School Principal Thomas Reed to serve as the district's next superintendent.

The board went through several rounds of interviews as it searched for a replacement for Shane Peters, who is retiring after 16 years of service. The finalists were Reed and Dr. Sarita Stevens, the deputy superintendent for the South Bend Community School Corporation.

The board met Wednesday and said it's now entered into contract negotiations with Reed to take the helm at Bridgman Public Schools starting in July of 2026.

Prior to serving as the principal of Otsego High School, in Allegan County, Reed was the junior and senior high school principal at Lawrence Public Schools.

Obituaries

Judy Stark

Judy passed away Friday, November 28, 2025, at home surrounded by her family. She was born January 20, 1940. She was the daughter of Joe and Eleanor Elliott. Judy was a 1958 graduate of Allegan High School. She was employed with Bob Hayes and State Farm Insurance in Allegan for many years. All of her grandchildren were very close to her heart. She loved spending time with them. Judy also enjoyed game day

Judy Stark

with her "Turtle Girls" and beating Ron at cribbage, along with card playing with her neighbor kids. She married the love of her life, Ron Stark, July 14, 1984, at United Methodist Church in Allegan, who survives.

Also surviving are her children, Lisa (Doug) Wedge of Florida, and David (Julie) Levett of Allegan; four grandchildren, Justin, Meghan, Jake, and Lyndsey; twelve great-grandchildren; brother Mike (Bonnie) Elliott; and nieces (Wende and Heidi).

Judy's Memorial service will start at 11:00 AM with an hour's visitation beforehand from 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM on Thursday, December 11, at Gorden Funeral Residence, Allegan Chapel 528 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, MI 49010. Inurnment to follow at Hudson Corners Cemetery in Allegan Township.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Wings of Hope Hospice.

Geraldine M Logan-Baker

Geraldine M Logan-Baker passed away with her friends and family by her side at Grace of Douglas!!

Geraldine, (Geri), was preceded in death by two of her sons Louis Logan and Stephen Campbell.

Her surviving children are Tammy (Sonny) Page, Dan Logan, Tim (Julie) Logan, Troy (Tina) Logan, Todd Logan.

Geri loved her family, which consisted of 11 brothers and sisters,

Geraldine M Logan-Baker

several grandkids, and great grandkids!

Geri liked to do search and finds, and she loved horror movies, but her favorite thing to do was go to the casinos and play slots until she just couldn't no more!!

Geri will be gone but not forgotten!!

Geri's family will have an open visitation Friday, December 5, from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM at Chappell Funeral Home, 637 West Main Street, Fennville MI 49408.

Kathleen Marie (Smith) Hainer

Kathleen Marie (Smith) Hainer passed on December 2, 2025, in Fennville, MI. Kathleen was born to her late parents Harry and Alice (Brokus) Smith on July 31, 1955, in Allegan, Michigan. After Alice's death, Harry married June (Reed) Smith. Kathleen loved to draw and color in her spare time, creating all kinds of art. She also enjoyed going out to eat in town.

Kathleen is survived by her children: Mark (Jenny) Spohn, Patrick (Erin) Spohn, Geoffrey (Mary Theresa) Spohn, and Tim (Jessica) Davidsmeyer.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

Kathleen Marie (Smith) Hainer

Kathleen's family will have an open visitation on Monday, December 22, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at Gorden Funeral Residence, Allegan Chapel, 528 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, MI 49010.

Happy HOLIDAYS
EL JARIPEO
open daily at 11am
Gift Cards
purchased in December
Buy $50
Get $10 free!
106 E Main St., Fennville • (269) 722-3242
www.eljaripeomexicanrestaurantmi.com

They're in Good Hands Here
From puppies and kittens to senior pets, our caring and experienced team is here to provide your pet with the very best care and a compassionate touch.
Dr. Shanna Jack
Dr. Chris Buckley
and welcoming
Dr. Melinda Kelley
Bluegrass Animal Clinic
594 10th St, Plainwell
(269) 685-5894
New Extended Hours
8:30am-1pm, 2pm-5:30pm M-F
Bluegrass Animal Clinic
Accepting New Patients

Your Hometown Homepage
PUTTING THE WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!
Print...Online...E-edition
www.wilcoxnewspapers.com

123NET HOME FIBER INTERNET
Scan the QR Code to Sign Up or See When Fiber Internet Will Be Available.
HEY ALLEGAN COUNTY, FIBER IS HERE.
123NET has started connecting select Allegan County residents. Check your address to see your estimated service availbility date.
MI.123.NET | 248.359.8395

Exceptional Heart & Lung Care
More Tomorrows Start Here. When it comes to heart or lung surgery, you want expertise you can trust. At Bronson, our nationally recognized cardiac, cardiothoracic and pulmonary team delivers exceptional outcomes through advanced surgical techniques and compassionate, patient-centered care. As part of the region's most comprehensive heart and lung program, our specialists work together through every stage of care from diagnosis and surgery to recovery and rehabilitation. With deep experience and a commitment to innovation, we provide life-saving care that helps patients get back to what matters most. For exceptional heart and lung care, turn to Bronson.
bronsonhealth.com/heart
BRONSON

www.bloomingdalecom.com
(269) 521-7300
BLOOMINGDALE COMMUNICATIONS

Don't let cracks and potholes ruin your curb appeal.
Our expert team provides quality sealcoating, crack filling, and pothole repairs to extend the life of your asphalt.
Get a free quote today for the Spring 2026 Season and protect your investment!
Call 616-786-2923
Pittman Asphalt Maintenance, Fennville MI

Jarred Curtiss

Curtiss named DAR Good Citizen for Otsego

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

No one can accuse Otsego High School senior Jarred Curtiss of not being involved in school and the community.

Curtiss is both the senior class president and student council president. He's also a member of the National Honor Society, Links, ISA Club, the eSports team and has participated in track & field.

He is also the recipient of the 2025-26 DAR Good Citizen Award for Otsego High School.

According to Curtiss, receiving the award was an honor.

"It means so much to know that the efforts to lead, serve and take responsibility have made a significant impact on our school," Curtiss said. "This reminds me that helping others and staying committed truly make a difference."

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizens Award honors high school seniors who stand out not just for what they achieve, but for the kind of people they are. Each year, accredited public and private high schools across the country choose one senior who best represents the qualities the DAR emphasizes in its mission.

Those qualities include:

Dependability—showing honesty, integrity, and keeping your word.

Service—pitching in, helping others, and making a positive impact in the community.

Leadership—demonstrating poise, initiative, and the ability to guide others.

Patriotism—showing a genuine appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy and the responsibilities that come with them.

"I try to show these values by staying involved in various clubs, being reliable, take on various leadership roles and searching for ways to serve people in need," Curtiss said.

DAR Good Citizen Award recipients receive a pin, certificate and wallet card recognizing their achievement. They can also choose to take part in the program's scholarship competition, which includes an application, letters of recommendation, transcripts, and a timed essay. Entries are judged at the local, state, and national levels.

After graduating from OHS in the spring, Curtiss plans to attend college and major in secondary education/educational leadership.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Christmas time has officially arrived in Plainwell and Otsego.

On Friday, Dec. 5, the City of Plainwell (bottom two photos) held its annual Light Up the Night celebration, culminating with the lighting of the Christmas tree in Brooks Plaza.

The next day, the City of Otsego hosted its annual Hometown Christmas, which featured free hot apple cider, hot chocolate, hot dogs, donuts and more.

The night was capped with the Christmas parade and the lighting of the tree near the TOP Pavilion. (Plainwell photos provided by Penny Soper/Otsego photos provided)

Meijer host Double Match Day for Christian Neighbors

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Saturday, Dec. 13, is a big day for Christian Neighbors.

Why, you ask?

Because that's when the Plainwell Meijer hosts Double Match Day for its Simply Give program, with proceeds going directly to Christian Neighbors to support its food pantry.

"This program through Meijer is extremely valuable to us, especially as our food pantry needs have gone up significantly the last couple months," Christian Neighbors officials said in a social media post.

To participate, head to the Plainwell Meijer on Saturday, Dec. 13, and scan a Meijer gift card found at the end of each checkout lane. The amount can start at $10 and can be increased in $10 increments.

Once purchased, amount placed on the card is converted into a Meijer Food-Only Gift Card and donated directly to the local food pantry selected by the store.

On Double Match Day, Meijer automatically matches the amount and then matches it again. That means Meijer would match a $10 donation with $20 for a total of $30, effectively tripling each donation that day.

"Instead of determining what food to donate to our food pantry partners, the *Simply Give* program allows (food pantries) the flexibility to choose the grocery items best suited for the families they serve," Meijer said in a statement. "This includes baby food, formula, diapers and wipes."

This year's Simply Give campaign at the Plainwell Meijer began on Sunday, Sept. 28, and runs through Saturday, Dec. 27.

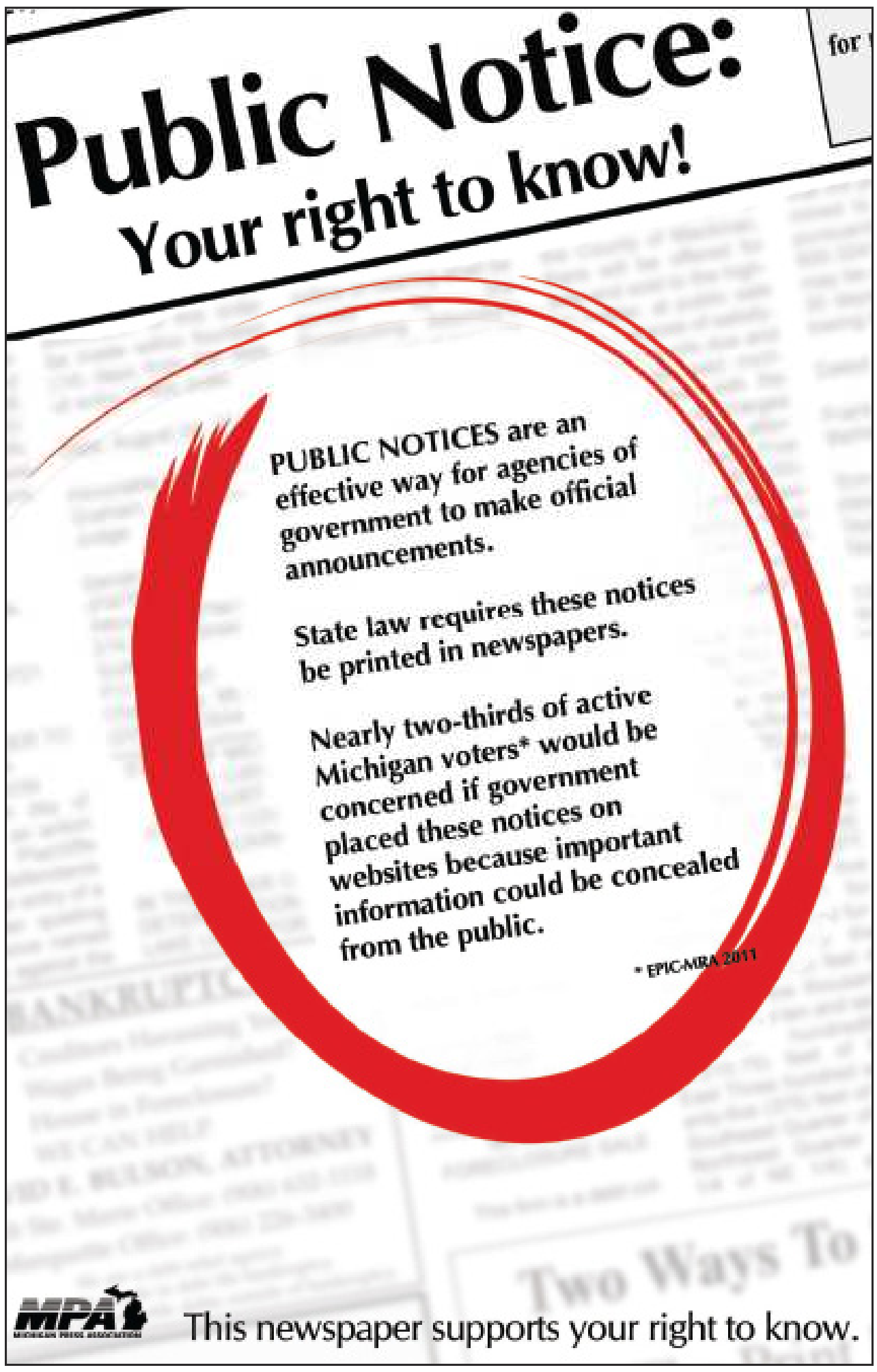
Gift cards can be purchased for donations on any day during that period, but Double Match Day is the only day Meijer provides matching funds.

The Simply Give program is a cornerstone of Meijer's community-engagement efforts. Established in November 2008, the program aims to stock the shelves of nearly 500 local food pantries across the Midwest (Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Wisconsin).

"Each Meijer store partners with a local food pantry during campaigns to ensure that all donations generated remain within local communities," Meijer said in a statement.

According to Meijer officials, Simply Give has generated more than $100 million since its inception "thanks to the continued generosity and support of Meijer customers, team members and food pantry partners who are committed to helping feed hungry families."

Simply Give: Meijer in Plainwell
September 28—December 27, 2025
Double Match Day: December 13!
Turn your $10 gift into $30
help fight local hunger
Christian Neighbors
simply give
$10 donation to your local food pantry
Thank You from Christian Neighbors!


Public Notice:
Your right to know!
PUBLIC NOTICES are an effective way for agencies of government to make official announcements.
State law requires these notices be printed in newspapers.
Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.
* EPIC-MRA 2011
MPA
This newspaper supports your right to know.

BREWSTER'S
FINE FOOD & SPIRITS
1420 M89, OTSEGO • 269-694-1818
DINE IN & TAKE OUT HOURS
Wed.-Thurs. 11am-9pm
Fri.-Sat. 11am-10pm
Sun. 12pm-7pm
Kitchen closes 1/2 hour before the bar.
Potato Wedges only $2.99 per order
EXTRA SIDES $2.75
• Cole Slaw • Baked Beans
• Potato Salad • Cottage Cheese
• French Fries • Garlic Mashed Potatoes
BONE-IN BROASTED CHICKEN
GRAB & GO
by the piece, box or bucket!
AVAILABLE
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY
11AM TO 6PM
Call ahead for large orders!
By the box/bucket
4 piece $7.75
8 piece $13.99
16 piece $27.75
32 piece $55.00
By the piece
Leg $2.00
Thigh $2.00
Wing $2.00
Breast $3.00

B SECTION
The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
SPORTS
First Place 2012 NNA Better Newspaper Contest
Award-winning Newspaper
Best Sports Column
Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025

Hoffman takes fifth place at Nike Cross Nationals

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

PORTLAND, ORE.—Otsego senior Emma Hoffman had already cemented her legacy as one of the top distance runners in the state of Michigan and the Midwest.

On Saturday, Dec. 6, she staked her claim to being one of the best in the nation.

Taking part in Nike Cross Nationals in Portland, Ore., Hoffman clocked in at a time of 17:16 to place fifth in a field of 210 of the top runners in the United States.

By virtue of her finish, she earned All-American honors, which goes to the top 21 placers.

Despite the confidence she had in herself and the work she's put into her sport, Hoffman admitted to surprising herself a little by her top-five showing.

"It means so much to me to place fifth," said Hoffman, who will compete for the University of Colorado next year. "Going into the race, my main goal was to get All-American. So I wanted to be top 21.

"I had never ran at a meet with such high level athletes, so I had no clue where I would stack up. So coming into those last two hills knowing I was in the top five was a huge shock. But it there was also so much joy and gratitude."

Rainy weather left the course conditions at Glendoveer Golf Course less than ideal.

"My main race plan was to put myself in the race," Hoffman said. "I decided to start off more conservative than usual, but still be with that front pack.

"I also was really focused on not falling. The footing was super bad due to all the rain, so it was a priority to find the best footing even if that meant running a little further."

Emma Hoffman (far right) is seen during a banquet at Nike Cross Nationals. (Photo provided)

The strategy worked to perfection, as only four runners finished ahead of Hoffman.

That included winner Natasza Dudek. A sophomore from Ann Arbor Pioneer, Dudek set the all-division Michigan High School Athletic Association State Finals record with a winning time of 16:09.5 to take the Division 1 title on Saturday, Nov. 1.

Hoffman also set a record that day, winning the Division 2 state title in a division-record time of 16:50.1.

And as much as that state title and division record meant to her, Nike Cross Nationals was on a different level.

"It is truly such a cool experience," Hoffman said. "To be surrounded around people who are so talented and have such a love for the sport makes racing against them even more special."

Hoffman's parents—Jake and Sarah Knash—were with her in Portland to provide encouragement.

And while others couldn't be there in person, she still felt their support.

"I can't thank everyone enough for their support," she said. "So many people were cheering me on from afar and I would not have performed so well without them. And I am so grateful my parents were there to support me during this whole weekend."

Emma Hoffman competes at Nike Cross Nationals in Portland, Ore. (Photo provided)

The race was obviously the culmination of the weekend, but Hoffman made many other memories during her trip out west.

"The experience was unforgettable," she said. "Nike does so much for the athletes, not only paying for us all to fly out there, but they spoil us with gear, shoes, bags and more, but also making sure we have fun.

"It was also super cool to meet so many amazing people and create new friendships during the trip. I am so immensely grateful for this experience."

By placing in the top 10, Hoffman earned a headless Goddess statue.

"It is so special to receive these honors, and getting the trophy is just a cherry on top," she said.

Hoffman will be back at it on Saturday, Dec. 13, as she'll participate in another national race: Brooks XC Championships in San Diego.

"After that I'll take some down time," Hoffman said. "Then in late January I will gear back up for the indoor season. My main goals are to really just gain a lot of fitness this winter and be able to a contender for a national title in the outdoor season.

"Other than that, I just want to see how far I can push myself in my races and top off my senior year."

Wayland upends Hamilton, Hopkins

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

WAYLAND—Two games. Two wins over Allegan County rivals.

That was how the Wayland boys basketball team started its season.

After securing a 58-54 win over visiting Hamilton to open the season on Tuesday, Dec. 2, the Wildcats posted a 65-55 victory over Hopkins on Friday, Dec. 5.

In the Hamilton game, Wayland led 44-38 through three quarters.

Hamilton's Garner Hulst did his best to make up the deficit, as he scored 16 of his game-high 26 points in the final stanza.

But it wasn't quite enough, as the Wildcats held on for the victory.

Brady Perrin paced Wayland with 25 points, including 10 in the second quarter and seven in the final frame. Elijah Warsen added 14 points in the win.

Hudson Hulst chipped in with 10 points for Hamilton, which trailed 33-28 at halftime.

"It was a good opening-night win for us," Wayland coach Chris Jasinski said. "Hamilton is a very solid team that defends really well.

"Perrin and Warsen give us a nice one-two combo. Perrin is a four-year varsity player who is taking his game to the next level this year."

The Hopkins game remained air-tight for the first half. Wayland led 17-16 after one quarter and 28-25 at the half.

But the third quarter was a different story, with the Wildcats using a 19-6 edge to pull away.

Perrin had seven of his game-best 28 points in the third quarter, while Tyler Pehrson knocked down two 3-pointers in the stanza. Pehrson finished with 11 points.

Deacon Sidebotham added six points to go with 13 rebounds and eight blocks. Warsen had seven points and seven assists.

Wayland's Skyler Swinehart takes a shot in front of Hamilton's Carter Hickok (13). (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

"It was a solid win against our cross-town rival," Jasinski said. "Hopkins played hard and showed a lot of fight."

Allegan boys basketball drops pair of games

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

WYOMING—After opening the season with a win over Comstock on Monday, Dec. 1, the Allegan boys basketball team traveled to play Potter's House the next evening.

And while the game started well for the Tigers—the score was tied at 10-10 after one quarter—the 3-point shooting of Potter's House proved to be the difference as Allegan lost 52-47.

"We beat them on the boards, but Potter's House did a better job shooting 3-pointers," Allegan coach Brian Baker said.

LJ Dial led Allegan with 13 points and Brandon Thrash contributed 11 points.

The story was similar with Allegan traveled to Bridgman on Friday, Dec. 5.

The Tigers trailed just 10-9 after the opening frame, but trailed 24-17 at halftime and 39-28 entering the fourth quarter before falling 55-51.

"It was the same start as Tuesday," Baker said. "Bridgman took a lead in the second quarter and we were battling from behind from there."

Brayden Kosiorowski had a team-best 13 points for the Tigers, while Colby Bishop had 11 and Thrash had 10.

Nathan Martinez had another great game on the defensive side to go with seven points.

"Our two losses were by a combined nine points," Baker said. "We have not played well in all four quarters in any of our games this season. Once that happens, this team can do great things."

Martin boys fall to Parchment, Gobles

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—During the final three quarters of its season-opening game with visiting Parchment on Tuesday, Dec. 2, the Martin boys basketball team outscored the Panthers 34-33.

But in the first quarter, Parchment held a 21-11 advantage, resulting in a 54-45 loss by the Clippers.

"We got off to a slow start defensively but kept improving as the game went on," Martin coach Corby Callaway said. "Guys played hard and played well together.

"There were a lot of positives to take out of this game, considering we've had two practices with our full team after football's state championship run. We will get better every practice and every game."

Ethan Fitzpatrick paced Martin with 17 points. Blake Sweeting collected the double-double with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Three days later, the Clippers traveled to Gobles and were never able to find an offensive rhythm.

Martin was limited to 18 point through three quarters and fell 47-38.

"We struggled to find our offense tonight," Callaway said. "We got into early foul trouble and never really recovered.

"We played a little better in the second half, but we have to get out of the habit of falling behind early. It seems to be a reoccurring theme, and I have to do a better job getting us ready to go at the tip."

Fitzpatrick went for eight points and three rebounds the loss. Sweeting had six points, nine rebounds, four steals and three assists.

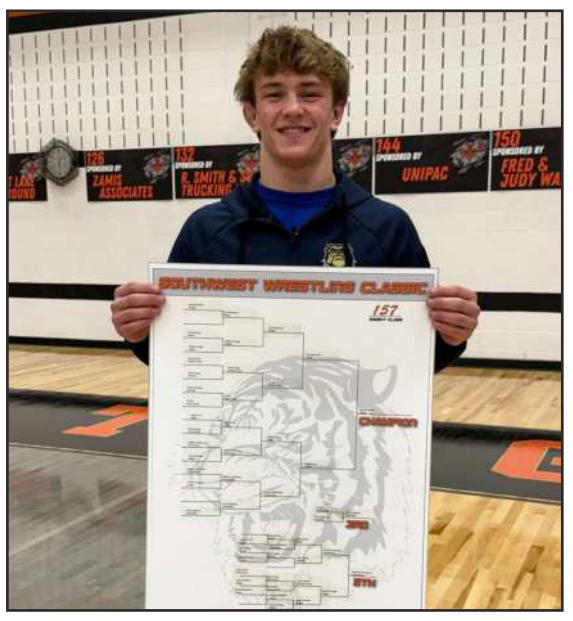
B&C Trophy Athlete of the Week

Lane Blanchard
Otsego
Boys Wrestling

The wrestling season is just getting underway, but Otsego senior standout Lane Blanchard was already in mid-season form at the Allegan Southwest Classic on Saturday, Dec. 6.

After receiving an opening-round bye, Blanchard won his next three matches by tech fall to earn the title at 157 pounds.

For his efforts, Blanchard was named Most Valuable Upper Weight Wrestler for the tournament.



B&C TROPHY & APPAREL, INC.
544 E Mamell St Ste A, Otsego
(269)694-4261
bnctrophy@yahoo.com
Screen Printing•Embroidery
Awards & Engraving

Boys Swim & Dive Season Preview:

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Otsego senior Liam Smith is a five-time state champion in Division 3. (File photo)

ALLEGAN

After having just one member on the team two years earlier, Allegan continued its climb back up the SCC standings by placing fourth last year.

And with several key contributors from that team pack again this season, Allegan coach Carol Gephart is hoping that upward trajectory continues this season.

"The SCC conference is competitive again this year, with several experienced teams returning strong lineups," said Gephart, who is in her sixth year as head coach. "Many of our opponents have older athletes with considerable varsity experience, which will make every meet highly contested.

"Despite those challenges, we believe our team is positioned well. Our goal is to finish within the top three in the conference. With the talent, work ethic and steady growth of our young roster, that is an achievable target. As our athletes continue to develop and gain experience, we expect to close the gap on the traditional top contenders and make a strong push throughout the season."

Nolan Greig is the team's lone senior. After diving last year, he will be swimming this year.

Also back are juniors Oliver Burnett (free, fly), John DeLaet (free, back), Ezra Smith (fly, breaststroke, IM) and Gabe Thorsen (back, free).

Sophomores Cadel Conrad (fly, free, IM), Josh Kelley (free, breaststroke), Sam Kelley (back, free) and Charlie Morris (free, IM) round out the returning athletes.

Freshman Corbin Chopp (breaststroke, free, IM) is the 10th and final member of the team.

"This year's roster is small—just 10 athletes—but it is a group defined by talent, enthusiasm and a tremendous work ethic," Gephart said. "Our swimmers are committed, supportive of one another and united in their goals.

"The leadership within this team is exceptional and will be a driving force in our success."

According to Gephart, versatility is a strength of the team.

"Our athletes are technically strong across multiple events, which is a huge advantage for us," she said. "

"With only 10 athletes, we have limited room for illness, injury or lineup flexibility. However, the dedication and work ethic of this group help offset that concern, and we are confident in their ability to compete at a high level throughout the season."

Last year, the Tigers took all three relays and two individuals to the Division 3 State Finals.

"Overall, we are excited for a season filled with growth, hard work and competitive racing," Gephart said. "This group brings great energy to the pool every day, and their commitment to improving—both individually and as a team—sets a strong foundation for success."

HAMILTON

Jack Langeland enjoyed quite the junior year for Hamilton.

At the Division 3 State Finals last March, Langeland earned All-State in four events: he was third in the 200 free (1:42.76) and sixth in the 100 fly (52.55) as well as being part of the third-place 200 medley relay and fifth-place 200 free relay.

Langeland is one of 10 returning athletes who will be asked to lead the way after the Hawkeyes placed fifth at the D3 Finals a year ago.

Liz VandeWege is entering her first season as the team's head coach.

"With only 15 kids on the team, it's all hands on deck to be the best that we can be day in and day out," she said. "My hope is for us to improve times or scores for our taper meet."

The diving duo of senior Brodie Brown (fifth) and Jayden Bierschbach (seventh) also earned All-State last season.

The other returning athletes are juniors Reece Nykamp (200 free, 500 free), Brett VandenBerg (fly, breaststroke), Cillian Slater (50 free, 100 free), Tyler Stark (200 free, 500 free) and Tyler Babler (back) along with sophomores Zachary Bain (IM, breaststroke) and Brendan Hansen (500 free).

"Meets this year will come down to my second and third guys in the events," VandeWege said. "It's all about depth when it comes to winning meets."

Sam Harper returns to Plainwell after winning the 500-yard freestyle state title in Division 3. (File photo)

As for the conference meet, VandeWege expects the Hawkeyes to finish fourth as a team and produce some event championships.

OTSEGO

Interesting.

That's the one word longtime Otsego coach Darryl Belton chose when asked to describe his thoughts on the upcoming season.

"This is going to be an interesting year," Belton said. "We have a bunch of new swimmers and we return a good group also."

That returning group includes one of the top swimmers in the state of Michigan, senior Liam Smith.

A five-time state champion, Smith will continue his swimming career at the University of Florida next year.

Junior Blake Guerrant joins Smith as the team's captains.

"Liam has been nothing short of phenomenal for us the past three years, and we are both hoping his senior year will be his best," Belton said.

"Blake worked his tail off this past spring, summer and fall and he looks fantastic. I am expecting him to absolutely blow up this year and right now he looks like one of the best swimmers in the state."

Also returning are juniors Garrison Busscher and Jason Haywood along with sophomores Liam Raseman, Blake Schultz and Danny Truong.

"Raseman was on the state team and missed being in the top 16 (in the 500-yard freestyle) by .5 seconds," Belton said. "I don't think he will miss this year."

Busscher and Haywood both joined the team as first-time swimmers a year ago.

"Garrison and Jason both made huge contributions at the end of the year," Belton said. "I expect both to be much faster this year as they are starting the year knowing how to swim.

"Blake (Schultz) is a great multi-event swimmer who will contribute in many events and Danny is also doing diving this year."

Newcomers include freshmen Brayden Meyer, Sam Gray and Tyler Warnock. Meyer also swims for GKC out of Kalamazoo and already hit state-cut times in the 200 free and 500 free in Otsego's first meet this season.

Sophomore Colten Puente swam in our club program and joined this year after taking his freshman year off. The Bulldogs also added first-year junior Ryan Cathcart and first-year seniors Ty Oaks and Brennen Perry.

"This is the first year for those three and we are still trying to figure out what events they will be in," Belton said. "But all three have great work ethic and all three made big contributions in our first meet."

The Bulldogs finished second to Plainwell in the SCC last year and Belton is looking for another top-three showing.

"We have a long way to go, but it is looking good so far," he said.

PLAINWELL

Always the bridesmaid, never the bride.

That's the way Plainwell coach Andrea Murphy had feeling regarding her team's string of second-place conference finishes in the SCC.

That streak came to an end last year, as the Plainwell beat defending champion Otsego head-to-head in a dual meet before finishing first at the league meet.

"We finally won the league last year after 100 years of getting second," Murphy joked.

With many key contributors back this year—led by senior state champ Sam Harper—the Trojans are hoping to make it two years in a row when it comes to conference titles.

Not that Murphy expects it to be easy.

"I think we will be close to the top," she said. "Otsego and Marshall always give everyone a run for the money at league. Both of those teams both just have great coaches who can get their team ready to go and swim fast at the end of the season."

Harper took first in the 500-yard freestyle and was second in the 200 free at the Division 3 State Finals last year.

Other returning seniors are Aiden Ranger (diving/breaststroke), Phil Mathis (diving/sprint free), Joseph Hoffman (IM, breaststroke), Nolan Lindsey (IM, breaststroke), Hiro Nguyen (variety of events), Davis Nooney (IM, breaststroke), Grady Nugent (sprint, backstroke), Ben Sparks (backstroke, sprint free) and Alex Steele (fly, sprint free).

"We are pretty fortunate to have a large solid senior class," Murphy said.

Juniors William Justice (freestyle), Parker Montange (IM, breaststroke) and Ford Stevens (fly) also return, as do sophomores Oliver Berg (free) and Jonah Cole (Fly).

It's a group that will be joined by newcomers including seniors Felipe De Matto (IM) and Matt Malatinski (free, back), sophomore Logan Stuifenbergen (diving) and freshmen freestylers Ryan Miller, Colton Mull and Vander Summerer.

"We are looking forward to another great season," Murphy said. "We have some holes to fill with our seniors who graduated last year, but hopefully we can move some people around."

↔ see Swim & Dive, Page B3

Professionals Directory Guide

New and used computers and accessories, repair & service
brother at your side Authorized Service Center
Commitment Quality Reliability
A-Tech COMPUTERS + MORE
311 Hubbard Street
Allegan, MI
(269) 783-5465
atechccs@gmail.com
atechccs.com

VA DISABILITY
AUTO ACCIDENTS • SERIOUS INJURIES • WRONGFUL DEATH
ESTATE PLANNING & PROBATE ADMINISTRATION
COOPER LAW
269-436-8316
www.cooperlawplc.com
VA DISABILITY LAW CENTER
www.veteransdisabilitylawcenter.com
ARMED FORCES FOUNDATION
www.usarmedforcesfoundation.org
A Public, Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Charity
134 SOUTH PHELPS STREET #64 • DECATUR, MI 49045
LOCATED IN THE HISTORIC MINT EXCHANGE BUILDING DOWNTOWN DECATUR

WRAY'S
SEPTIC TANK & DEVELOPMENT CO.
A Straight Flush Beats A Full House
Residential & Commercial
1148 Lincoln Rd
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-4791
www.wraysseptic.com

Wolf Law Group
1244 Lincoln Rd. (M-89), Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-2105
www.wolflawoffices.com
Heidi L. Wolf
Attorney at Law
Criminal • Divorce • Family Law • Wills & Trusts
Major Credit Cards Accepted

simple human sense.
KEN BLEEKER INSURANCE
269.672.5228 • kenbleeker.com
Auto-Owners INSURANCE

David Smith, CPIA
Senior Vice President,
Insurance Sales and Administration
david.smith@
UnitedBank4U.com
269.792.8760
1131 West Superior Street
Wayland, MI 49348
United Insurance

Allegan Eyecare
Dr. Amanda Hodge
Dr. Paul Hodge
Dr. Matthew Austin
Ph 269.673.5100
800.797.4351
Fx 269.673.1806
123 Locust Street
Allegan, MI 49010
alleganeyecare.com

To Advertise in the Allegan County News
Professionals Directory Guide
Call 269-673-5534

Otsego boys pick up hardwood win against Hopkins

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HOPKINS—It was a busy first week of the season for the Otsego boys basketball team, as the Bulldogs played three games in five days.

And after dropping the first two of those contests, the Bulldogs collected their first win by besting host Hopkins 73-52 on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Otsego's Wyatt Dennis led all scorers in Hopkins game, going for 22 points, including five 3-pointers in the second half. Leeland Longcore added 16 points and four steals.

The Bulldogs trailed 15-6 after one quarter before using an 18-9 edge in the second quarter to knot the score at 24-24.

The third quarter was all Otsego, which held a 27-10 scoring edge.

"After a slow start, we challenged the guys at halftime to bring more energy and support each other," Otsego coach Matt Dennis said. "They responded exactly how we hoped. Shots started falling, we got some good bounces, and the effort never dropped.

"We weren't bad in the first half, but in the second, we looked like a different team."

Trent Smith led Hopkins with 11 points, followed by Cruz Hitzler and Jackson Iciek with nine each.

In its game with Vicksburg on Friday, Dec. 5, Otsego fell behind 22-10 after one quarter and trailed 42-14 at halftime en route to the 77-46 loss.

Owen Santman led Otsego with eight points, while Jack Cook added seven.

"It's still early in the season," Matt Dennis said. "We're focused on getting better every day, staying together as a team and playing hard for four full quarters. The wins will come if we keep doing the right things."

In its season opener against visiting Lakeshore on Tuesday, Dec. 2, Otsego was down just 39-25 through three quarters.

But a 20-12 advantage for Lakeshore in the final stanza resulted in a 59-47 loss for the Bulldogs.

"For three and a half quarters, we kept the game close," Matt Dennis said. "In the last four minutes, Lakeshore was able to pull away.

"Overall, there were a lot of encouraging signs. With such a young team, we saw stretches of really solid basketball, along with moments where mistakes and turnovers kept us from taking the lead. To win games, we need to play more consistently for all four quarters."

Santman scored a team-high 12 points in the loss, while Longcore had 11.

Hamilton wrestlers compete in two tourneys

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Hamilton boys wrestling team was represented in two tournaments on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The trio of Bryce Morrison (150 pounds), Chase Morrison (125) and Tyler Block (165) participated in the Grappler Gold Invitational in Hartland, while the rest of the team took part in the Greenville Duals.

Bryce Morrison took first in his weight class, finishing at 4-0. That included wins over the top-ranked wrestlers in Division 1 and Division 3 as well as the No. 11 wrestler in D3.

Chase Morrison went 3-1, with victories over the No. 6 wrestler in D1, the No. 2 wrestler in D3 and the No. 2 wrestler in D2.

Block went 2-3 to place eighth.

At Greenville, the rest of the Hamilton squad beat Belding 31-28 and fell to Caledonia (66-15), Greenville (66-6), Hastings (71-12) and Petoskey (48-23).

Cade Mitchell went 4-1 at 106, while Weston Geerling (113), Jeremy Raab (120) and Brandon Tucker (285) each went 3-2.

Swim & Dive ■ from Page B2

WAYLAND

Last year, Wayland went undefeated in conference meets and won the league championship.

The Wildcats will be looking for a repeat performance this year.

"Last year, we had an extremely even conference with all teams in our conference able to win a dual meet or the conference meet," Wayland coach Seth Beat said. "I expect the same level of competition from all six teams this year as well.

"Our goal, as it is each year, is to have the best conference record we can and make our best efforts to finish as high as we can in the conference meet."

Wayland has one very big factor working in its favor this year in its hunt for another league crown: every athlete who competed last year returning.

"That gives us an exceptional level of depth and experience across all events," Beat said. "Having all of our state-level athletes back is a tremendous advantage as well. They bring leadership, high standards and a clear understanding of what it takes to compete at the highest level."

Back for Wayland are seniors Eddie Oudbier, Ethan Manning, Carson Lown, Rhys Llewellyn and Evan Wandell; juniors Jackson Byers, Brad DeWeerd, Mason Fein, Alex Hubbard and Justin VanDyke; and sophomores Tyrus Ergang and Kyan Lawrence.

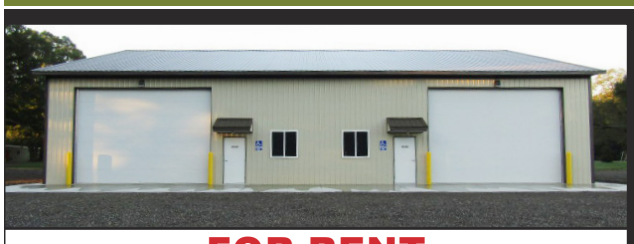
"What stands out most is the mindset of the entire group," Beat said. "Every athlete is committed to building on last season, focusing on improvement, growth and pushing themselves and their teammates to new heights.

"It's an exciting group with a strong foundation, and we're eager to see what they accomplish this year."

Freshmen Eli Fifelski and Zakary Kadwell join the team this year.

"I would like to see growth in our incoming freshman class and more interest in trying out for the team from the other classes," Beat said.

The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
Service Directory Guide
Find the Services and Businesses You Need!


FOR RENT
60x80 Commercial building with office and restroom. Radiant heat, 14x20 garage door, located north of Allegan on Class A road. Immediate occupancy, large parking area, can rent whole building or half. Call Jerry at 269-650-0948

Stowaway Self Storage
Close to Home Storage
Conveniently located in Downtown Fennville
First Month FREE
269-225-3973
353 E. 1st St, Fennville
www.stowawaystoragemi.com

Naturally Grounded
Naturopathic Wellness
Naturally Grounded is a naturopathic wellness practice located in Hamilton, MI
4754 136th Avenue, Hamilton MI 49419
Phone: 269-550-3168
Website: www.ng-wellness.com

Ridderman Oil
PO BOX 117
Plainwell, MI 49080
Sales & Marketing
Lindsey
269-685-5825
Lindsey@riddermanoil.com
FUELING YOUR SUCCESS

Damber Tree & Yard Service LLC
SERVICES INCLUDE:
- Full Tree Removal
- Gutter Cleaning
- Rototilling
- Mowing
- Gravel Driveway Work
- Mulching
- Trash Removal
- Retaining Walls
And So Much More !!!
Fully Licensed and Insured
Call us today at (269) 251-5602
or Email at dambertys@gmail.com
www.dambertys.com

Bob Tolsma Plumbing
Bob Tolsma
4215 Lincoln Rd
Holland Michigan 49423
Office (616) 836-1197
bob@tolsmaplumbing.com
- New Construction
- Remodels Insured
- Water Heaters
- Water Softeners
- Water & Sewer hookups
- 24 hr emergency

We Have The POWER To Make Things Better!
GENERAC
Best Installers • Best Warranty • Best Prices
Mr. Electric
a neighborly company
(269) 686-0014 • (269) 375-0520
www.mrelectric.com

Rent a Water Softener for $35/mo.
Add an RO for only $5/mo more.
* Call for details
Gordon Water Systems
269-382-0068

Landscape Design Services
We design to fit your lifestyle.
269-639-9000
www.LandscapeDS.com
A Bakker Family Business since 1968
Lawn Fertilization and Weed Control
Your Local Lawn & Landscape Experts

LONE WOLF
PEST CONTROL AND NUISANCE WILDLIFE
AFFORDABLE Pest Extermination and Nuisance Wildlife Removal
Local, Prompt, Licensed and Insured.
What's Buggin you? Call 269-400-3888

RhodesWay Hay
Square & Round Hay Bales
Delivery Available
Brian Rhodes
Cell (269) 675-0137
Phone (269) 521-4519
4442 108th Avenue
Pullman, MI 49450

TIM ROGERS PLUMBING
SEWER AND DRAIN • PLUMBING • WATER HEATERS
WATER SERVICE & SEWER MAINS • HEATING AND COOLING
Now Licensed to Pump Septic Tanks
TIM ROGERS
PHONE: 269-673-3651
WEB: TIMROGERSPLUMBING.COM

PEERLESS Auto Glass LLC
616-930-7944
Monday - Friday 8am-5pm
Allegan
www.peerlessautoglass.com
25 years experience
Serving West Michigan Area
Mobile service to your home or work
Works with all insurance companies

AREA ALLEGAN Real Estate Agency
WE BUY HOUSES/LAND
Buy • Sell • Trade • Rent
Residential • Commercial
Vacant Land • Land Development
Now taking listings at 4%
MyStateMLS
Lou Jennings
Real Estate Broker
Property Manager
269-673-4565
269-673-4565
269-910-4206
area89@frontier.com
840 Marshall Street (M-89)
Allegan, Mi. 49010

IMPROVE THE VALUE AND APPEARANCE OF YOUR VEHICLE
AUTO DETAIL SHOP
Buff & Wax, Engine, Vinyl, Glass, Door Jams, Shampoo Interior, Tires/Rims, Trunks & More
Auto Detailing Solutions
Over 19 year experience
Call Jason at (269) 673-6240

Tree Removal & Trimming
Stump Grinding
Fully insured
Over 30 years experience in tree work.
Very reliable and reasonable • Free estimates
RC TREE SERVICE
owned and operated by
Carl Sparks 269-377-0284 or 269-568-7231 Randy

Tree Tech L.L.C.
Top Soil/Bobcat Service
Tree/Lot Clearing
Tree Removal
Tree Pruning
Top Soil Installation
Stump Grinding
Firewood Log Loads
JOSEPH BRENNAN, Owner
616.990.TREE (8733)
TreeTechMI.com
5863 Old Allegan Rd.
Hamilton, MI 49419
officetreetech@gmail.com

The All-New AUTO WEST
FREE BRAKE INSPECTION at the all-new AUTO WEST
USED CAR SUPER STORES
1208 M-89, Plainwell - 269-685-9197
www.GOAUTOWEST.com

Book Review: The Grave Robber

The Bookworm Sez

"The Grave Robber: The Biggest Stolen Artifacts Case in FBI History and the Bureau's Quest to Set Things Right"

by Tim Carpenter

299 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

All the books the Bookworm reviews here are available at the sponsor of this column:

Allegan District Library

You wouldn't call yourself a perfectionist.

Still, if something is amiss, you feel a need to make it right. Something's broken, you fix it. If it's off, you make it right. That goes for minor issues or, as in the new book "The Grave Robber" by Tim Carpenter, matters of grave importance.

The tipsters were adamant. Don Carlin Miller had "Indian bones."

And so, on a cool, cloudy fall afternoon, FBI bomb tech coordinator and sometime art crime expert Tim Carpenter and one of his associates headed to a remote property near Indianapolis., in search of the truth.

Miller was well-known to the FBI; years earlier, he'd bragged that he was involved in the Manhattan Project and had some uranium in his possession. A case was filed in 2008 and he gave up those souvenirs, but this was different: Carpenter, who was "eager for a good art crime case," had gotten photographs of Native American remains on Miller's property.

A meeting was arranged and Carpenter was careful to stay above the law. Introduced as someone with interest in antiquities, he paid close attention as Miller showed him around, and he noticed items that gave him pause. Furthermore, Miller, then around 90 years old, loved to tell stories and some of his tales confirmed what Carpenter suspected.

Over the course of decades, Miller had robbed Native American graves. Recovering them would take enormous effort.

Miller ultimately gave up the remains and stolen items without a fight and so, over the course of several days, Carpenter waded through many months of bureaucracy and red tape before leading an FBI team of experts, students, and agents through Miller's home and outbuildings. There, hidden in secret rooms, moldering closets, paper bags, and in plain sight, they found "hundreds of people's bones" – most dug hastily and amateurishly, some in abysmal shape, most stored or displayed disrespectfully.

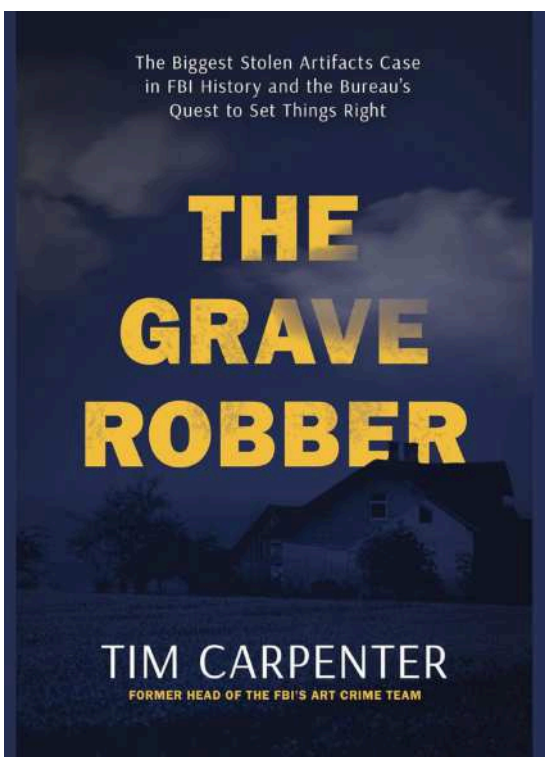
Miller considered himself somewhat of an expert in the field, but that wasn't the case at all. Says Carpenter, he "wasn't just a bad digger, he was far worse – nothing more than an unabashed grave robber."

Wow. Be prepared to say it loud and say it often because "The Grave Robber" is a stunning story on many levels.

There's the book's raison d'etre: the sometimes-thrilling tale of horrifying plunder and wrongly assumed privilege, both set right like a skewed, often obscene treasure hunt in reverse. True crime fans and those who love a good FBI procedural will be excited to see how author Tim Carpenter explains his case, how it proceeded and how it ended, with just enough biography inside the tale to make it personal. And history buffs will absolutely relish the backstory and the reasons the case came about in the first place.

If you're a fan of all of the above genres, well, what are you waiting for?

Though it contains what is often a confusing alphabet soup or FBI acronyms, "The Grave Robber" is a can't-miss story that'll have you glued to your chair. For nonfiction readers like you, it's perfection.


The Biggest Stolen Artifacts Case in FBI History and the Bureau's Quest to Set Things Right
THE GRAVE ROBBER
TIM CARPENTER
FORMER HEAD OF THE FBI'S ART CRIME TEAM

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

Over the past decade or more, Christmas gifts have migrated from carefully selected and wrapped presents to shopping online to gift cards. Your thoughts, please: To gift or gift-card?

-Man at a gas station on M-89: "I just send cash. It's what they want so they can buy whatever they want for all I care. I don't like it. Ever since they told me they want money it's sucked the life right out of Christmas, as far as I'm concerned."

-Woman, same location: "Me, too. I used to have such fun going out with the girls while we picked out presents for our family. We'd finish and stop for coffee. It was a tradition. Not now. Gift cards can go to [bet you know where]."

-Couple in front of the Fennville hardware store; Man: "We're starting our shopping right here. The kids want one of those round snow sled-things like they saw on Christmas vacation." Woman: "And the granddaughter wants a wood burning kit, but I think she is too young for it." Man again: "Now that I'm retired I get in on the fun. You know, I just might pick up a can of that cake pan spray lubricant as a joke."

-Man in front of the statue of the Civil War soldier in Allegan: "I'd get something for my girlfriend, but she wants a gift card so she can pick out her own gift. And she tells me how much money she wants on it." Rolls his eyes in disgust.

-Two young women in front of the Allegan Public Library; Both agreed: "Gift cards! Then we can go shopping for ourselves. This way we don't get lame presents."

-Friend with them, same location: "I dumped my boyfriend so I don't have to spend money on him. He'll want to get back together so I'm counting on him making it worthwhile." The other two women laughed.

-Mother with two children near A-Tech: "We're going there (pointing to Good Shepherd Episcopal Church) for their Santa Shop. You have no idea what a Godsend that is this year!" She put a finger up to her lips to let me know not to say anything.

-Older man in front of the Allegan Post Office: "Oh, I don't know. The grandchildren, they'll get something; at least the younger ones. The two older boys, they never bother with me, so I don't see why I should give them anything. If they don't want me in their lives, then I guess they don't get the goodies, either. It's kinda too bad, really sad. That wasn't the way we were raised."

-Woman, same location: "My family tried pulling that gift card idea on me a few years ago. I told them I wouldn't do it. They had to come up with some ideas of something special or they weren't getting anything from me. I hate those cards. It ruins everything and makes Christmas just about money."

The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise

Service Directory Guide

Find the Services and Businesses You Need!

Andy's Tree Service
Stump Grinding
Fully Insured
Firewood
Tree Trimming / Removal
Firewood
Lot Clearing
andybeelen@gmail.com 616-566-3386

Third Coast Garage Door
Garage Doors
Openers
Service/Parts
Custom Installation
Over 20 Years Experience
Jake LaRoy-Owner
thirdcoastgaragedoor@gmail.com
Office-269-346-0803
Cell-734-777-5163
www.thirdcoastgaragedoor.com

Wendt's Fence
Installation & Repair
269-998-1532
www.wendtsfence.com Find us on

West Michigan Glass Concepts LLC
269-762-3480
Same Day Window Repair!
116 E Allegan St, Otsego
samedaywindowrepair.com

Donnie Brest Jeff Meyer
PRO AUTOMOTIVE LLC
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
ALL MAKES AND MODELS
1211-B M-89
Plainwell MI 49080
269-685-5700
www.proautomotiveplainwell.com

NAPA AUTOCARE CENTER
ASE CERTIFIED
Full Service
Car Repair & Tires
We buy and sell used cars
24 Months 24,000 MILES NATIONWIDE WARRANTY
Cars & More LLC
569 10th Street
Plainwell, MI 49080
(269) 501-5763
CarsAndMoreLLCPlainwell@gmail.com
www.CarsAndMoreLLCPlainwell.com

ASA Automotive Specialty Accessories
79 10th Street • Plainwell, Michigan 49080
Phone: 269.685.2189 • Cell: 269.806.6474
Fax: 269.685.2365 • Hours: Mon.-Thu. 8:00-6:00
email: asatrucks@asatrucks.com • web: www.asatrucks.com

KLC
M-89 SELF-STORAGE
SECURITY-LIGHTING
(269)-543-4757
NEW BUILDING OPEN FOR BUSINESS.
6464 124th AVE. FENNVILLE, MI 49408

BONIFACE
Heating and Air Conditioning Inc.
www.bonifaceheating.com
bryant Factory Authorized Dealer Heating & Cooling Systems
961 124th Avenue
Shelbyville
269-672-7914

WRAY'S
SEPTIC TANK & DEVELOPMENT CO.
A Straight Flush Beats A Full House
Residential & Commercial
1148 Lincoln Rd
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-4791
www.wraysseptic.com

WATERPROOFING CONTRACTORS R/J
Wet Basement?
• Internal/External Drain Tile Systems
• Water Seepage - Structural Wall & Floor Cracks
• Damp Wet Crawl Spaces
• Bowed & Cracked Walls
• Sump Pump/Emergency Backup System
• Mold Removal & Drywall Repair
Senior Discounts
24 Hour Emergency Service
LOCAL 269-337-7660
EXPERIENCED IN ALL METHODS OF BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

ACE
The helpful place.
PLAINWELL ACE HARDWARE
Screen/window Repair • Key Cutting • Live Bait
ECHO Outdoor Power Equipment YETI CRAFTSMAN
135 N. Anderson St., Plainwell 269-225-1061

THE WRIGHT FENCE
The Fencing Professionals
Schedule your FREE estimate today!
Wright Fence
900 E. Bridge St.,
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-806-7583
www.TheWrightFence.com
25 Years of Experience

H&H AUTO BODY, LLC
Complete Collision Repair
Complete Collision Repair
Accepting ALL insurance estimates.
269-685-5832
745 N. Main Street
Plainwell, MI 49080
Mon-Thu 8am-5pm. Closed Fri
fax 269-685-5834

Greg Hulsebos
Contracting
Call or text 616-786-5077
Complete Remodeling Services
Kitchens/baths, custom cabinets, tile (floors, repairs)
Licensed and Insured

Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Dec. 11, 1950

Dry cleaners ask injunction from original owners: Charging they signed an agreement not to conduct a dry-cleaning business in the city of Allegan before March 1952, Emil A. Freiwald has filed suit against Earl and Avis Herman doing business as the Hi-Way Cleaners on M-40, asking $4,000 in damages.

Freiwald claims the agreement carried the intention that the Hermans should not open a new business in Allegan, or in the immediate vicinity. Their present shop is just outside the city limits.

The defendants sold their downtown business in 1947 to Glenn Querbach, who later sold it to Freiwal and Alfred Berg. The latter is no longer a partner, Freiwald states.

He asks an injunction against the Hermans soliciting dry-cleaning business in the city, plus damages.

Dec. 11, 1975

Fate of New Richmond bridge up in the air: When the smoke cleared from the Manlius Township hall last Thursday afternoon, the future of the old New Richmond bridge was still shrouded in haze.

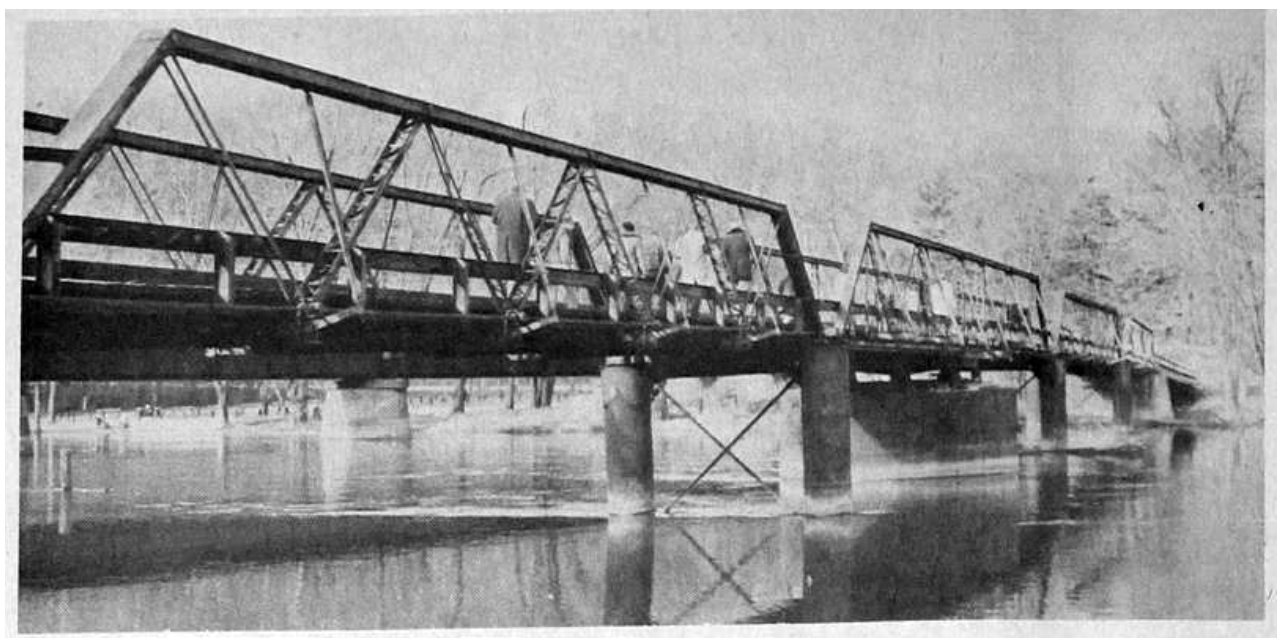
The nearly 100-year-old bridge, which has spanned the Kalamazoo River since times when large ships still cruised the river as far as New Richmond, was the subject of a public hearing conducted by the Allegan County Road Commission—and the public did more talking than hearing.

More than 50 New Richmond residents and a few interested artists and others from the Saugatuck area packed the small hall, filled with cigarette smoke and objections to anyone ever removing the bridge.

Though a few defended the bridge for historical and artistic reasons, the brunt of those who spoke were village pragmatists.

"That bridge," said Betty Gamby, a resident, "is important because we use it. New Richmond needs a bridge.

"It won't cost the county any more to repair the bridge than it will residents who will have to drive over to the new bridge, out of our way, for the next 20 years. We have a right to have that bridge just by virtue of the road being there."



Dec. 14, 2000

Saugatuck football returns: Two months ago, it was decided that, due to a lack of competitiveness and for safety reasons, varsity football at Saugatuck High School would be cancelled for the next two seasons.

The team was a combined 1-17 during the past two years and had only 22 players on the varsity squad this year, including a number of underclassmen.

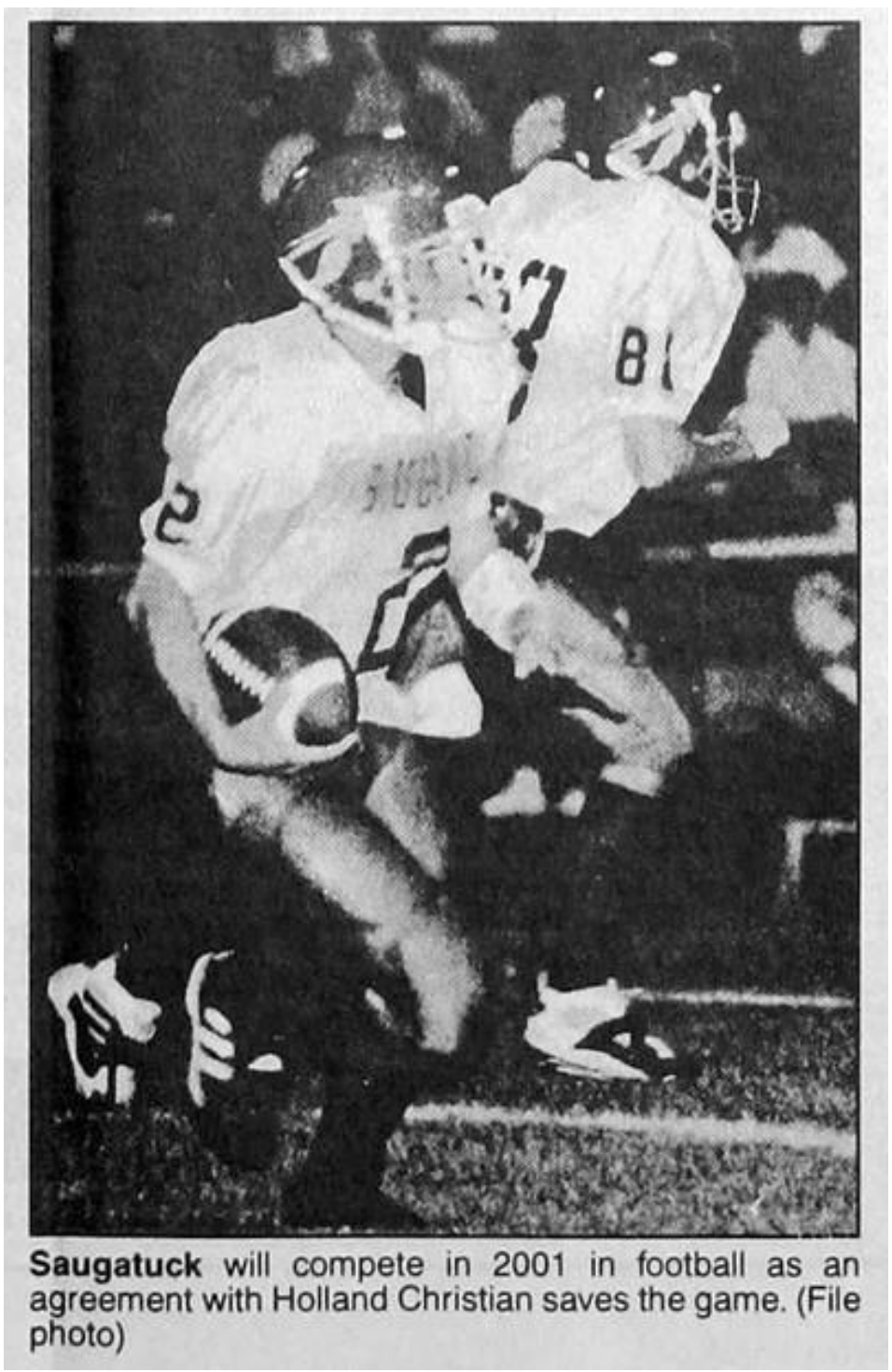
While all parties agreed the decision was the correct one, it still threw the program's long-term future into serious doubt.

As it turns out, though, the reports of Saugatuck football's death have been highly exaggerated.

Saugatuck athletic director Dan Wilson announced last week that, thanks to an agreement with Holland Christian High School, Saugatuck would indeed take the field next year. The agreement, which has been approved by the Michigan State High School Athletic Association, covers the 2001-02 season.

"This is the shot in the arm that our program can use now," Wilson said. "It's great. It's a situation that's beneficial not only to our kids, but also to Holland Christian's kids. It's a win-win."

The co-op transpired after Holland Chrisitan athletic director Mike Phelps contacted Wilson. Phelps, who is trying to build a football program at his school, had heard of Saugatuck's situation and thought he might have a solution.



Saugatuck will compete in 2001 in football as an agreement with Holland Christian saves the game. (File photo)

Dec. 10, 2020

Allegan girls golf team receives postseason accolades: For obvious reasons—including a global pandemic that continues to wreak havoc—it's a safe bet that most people won't remember 2020 in a particularly positive light.

For members of the Allegan girls' tennis team, however, there at least some bright spots among all the turmoil.

Not only did coach Steve Angles squad qualify for the Division 3 state finals as a team for the first time in school history by virtue of third-place showing at regionals, but the team also earned several postseason honors.

As she did throughout the season as the Tigers No. 1 golfer, senior Emma Franklin led the way for Allegan in terms of recognition and awards.

In addition to being named All-State Honorable Mention in Division 3 for her work on the golf course, Franklin also earned Academic All-State for her work in the classroom.

Franklin's inclusion on the All-State team resulted from her scoring average during the season coupled with outside tournaments.

"There are 12 golfers who are All-State and 12 more who honorable mention in each division in the state of Michigan," Angle said. "So, Emma ended up in the top 24 in Division 3."

On the academic side, individuals are honored if they two or more years at the varsity level and maintain a grade point average of 3.85 or higher.

Fellow senior Hope Lambert was received Academic All-State recognition.

"Hope and Emma are both four-year golfers and both girls are excellent students," Angle said.

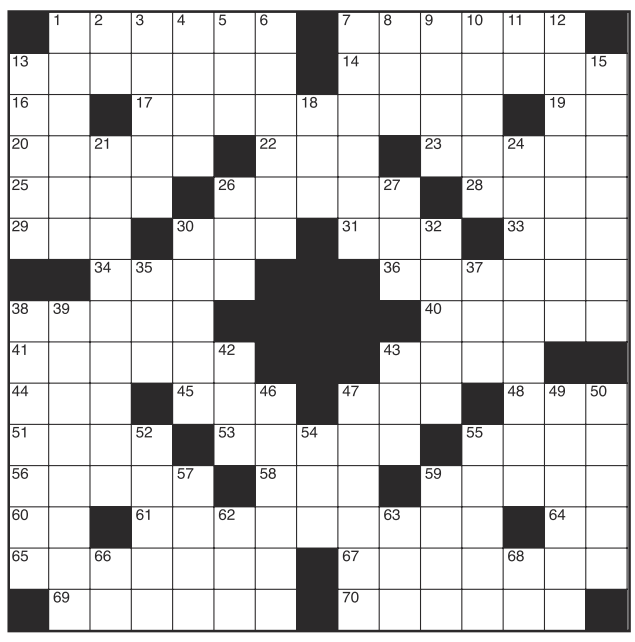
The rest of the team wasn't too shabby in the classroom, either, as Allegan received Academic Team All-State honors.

"The Team All-State Academic honors are presented to teams who have minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5," Angle said. "Bonus points are awarded for players with all A's.

"Our team GPA far exceeded the minimums as they are all excellent students."

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Spiritual leaders
7. A type of solution
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. They precede C
17. A way to compare
19. Government lawyer
20. 'Game of Thrones' actor Ciaran
22. The eighth month (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex Machina
26. Makes happy
28. Type of berry
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid
34. Company officer
36. Villains
38. Cricket frogs
40. Influential German psychologist
41. Endured
43. A female domestic
44. You can get stuck in one
45. Cigarette (slang)
47. Fiber optics network
48. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Belonging to the bottom layer
55. Sound
56. MLB legend Hank
58. Very attractive person
59. Late beloved sportscaster Craig
60. South Dakota
61. Mocking
64. Symbol for gold
65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary patient assessment

CLUES DOWN
1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Necklace material
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your future
6. Colorado Heisman winner Rashaan
7. Dipped down
8. Head injury (abbr.)
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Opposite of yes
12. Caused to be loved
13. Spiritual leader of Islam
15. Businesslike
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. An animal with its own day
26. Pouch
27. Swedish krona
30. Start over
32. Field flowers
35. Fourteen
37. A visual way to interact with a computer
38. Up-to-date
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. 'Boardwalk Empire' actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. Supporter of the Pope
49. Anxiety
50. Body fluid
52. One who's faking it
54. Title of respect
55. Chilean city
57. City in central Japan
59. Silk garment
62. A form of dance
63. Automobile
66. The man
68. Justice Dept. head honcho

■ see **Solution**, Page B7

Deaths

Oct. 11, 2025

MARTIN GARRETT, 70, Dorr Twp.

Nov. 16, 2025

VERNON HOWARD GARRETT, 91, Saugatuck Twp.

Nov. 18, 2025

MARIALICE ANN QUINN, 72, Casco Twp.

Nov. 21, 2025

BOBBIE JO CAUDILLO, 57, Holland

Nov. 22, 2025

VIRGINIA LYNN DEBOER, 51, Otsego Twp.

EILEEN PATRICIA BROWN, 93, Dorr Twp.

Nov. 23, 2025

DOUGLAS ALLEN WALLS SR, 71, Cheshire Twp.

DONNA JEAN BOCKS, 93, Douglas

nov. 24, 2025

CRAIG ALLISON IRWIN, 79, Wayland Twp.

TERRY DALE BRINK, 78, Valley Twp.

Nov. 25, 2025

HERMEEN KAY HASSEVOORT, 88, Holland

DAVID JAMES BENEDICT, 87, Wayland

Nov. 27, 2025

SUZANNE M HENDRIXSON, 90, Wayland

Nov. 28, 2025

TERESITA AGUILO MOREY, 66, Laketown Twp.

DEBRA KAY DALRYMPLE, 61, Wayland

Nov. 29, 2025

KENNETH LEE BRINKS, 80, Leighton Twp.

REBECCA KAY PALMER, 70, Otsego

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Nov. 25 and Dec. 3:

ANTHONY JAMES WISE, Fennville, and **MEAGAN ELIZABETH POTHOVEN**, Zeeland

JOSIAH TODD RYAN, Hopkins, and **NEVAEH JOY HELDEROP**, Dorr

JACOB SCOTT EDEMA, Shelbyville, and **SPENCER JO DZIERWA**, Shelbyville

WESLEY JON POTTER, Dorr, and **JENNIFER MARIE DISSMORE**, Dorr

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

	9	8					4	7
				8				
			7	5				
2	6					5	3	
3							2	4
	5		2				9	
	1		5					9
7	8			2			5	6
					1			

(See Solution Page B7)

Public Notices

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Michael Allen Hamstra, a single man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: May 13, 2022

Date of Mortgage Recording: May 20, 2022

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $494,840.96

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Overisel, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: THE NORTH 2 ACRES OF THE WEST 150 FEET OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 34, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST.

Common street address (if any): 4050 138th Ave, Hamilton, MI 49419-9768

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 20, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1577958

(11-20)(12-11)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Richard Force, A Married Man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC.

Date of Mortgage: October 24, 2014

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 30, 2014

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $92,690.45

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Watson, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: That part of the Northeast quarter of Section 26, Town 2 North, Range 12 West, described as:

Commencing at the East quarter corner of said Section 26; thence North 89 degrees 01 minutes 10 seconds West 1948.44 feet along the East-West quarter line to the point of beginning; thence North 00 degrees 04 minutes 44 seconds East 450.00 feet; thence North 62 degrees 09 minutes 20 seconds West 345.00 feet; thence South 02 degrees 52 minutes 38 seconds East 607.22 feet to the East-West quarter line; thence South 89 degrees 01 minutes 10 seconds East 274.00 feet, along said quarter line to the point of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 1477 115th Ave, Otsego, MI 49078-9719

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 20, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1577964

(11-20)(12-11)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Timothy J Kelley, a married man and Linda Kelley, his wife

Original Mortgagee: Independent Mortgage Co. West MI

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PHH Asset Services LLC

Date of Mortgage: October 23, 2006

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 31, 2006

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $104,263.72

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Overisel, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 9 of Reimink Plat No. 1 according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber/Instrument No. 7 of Plats, Page 69 of Allegan County Records.

Common street address (if any): 4785 Reimink St, Hamilton, MI 49419-9718

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 20, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1577963

(11-20)(12-11)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by James R. Land and Nancy L. Land, husband and wife, whose address is 512 Lawrence Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078, as original Mortgagors, to Republic Bank, being a mortgage dated December 4, 1998, and recorded on December 9, 1998 in Liber 1796 Page 989. Said mortgage was modified by a loan modification agreement, recorded July 1, 2021, book 4640 page 57, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and assigned by said mortgagee through mesne assignments to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated November 13, 2025 and recorded on November 14, 2025 in Liber 5087 Page 251, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of FORTY-TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY-TWO AND 50/100 DOLLARS ($42,792.50). Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOT 11 OF RIDGEBROOK SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 8 OF PLATS ON PAGE 19. Street Address: 512 Lawrence Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: November 20, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6820

(11-20)(12-11)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on December 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Jessica Root and Kodi Root, wife and husband, whose address is 229 Charles Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078, as original Mortgagors, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., as mortgagee, AS NOMINEE FOR PRIMELENDING, A PLAINSCAPITAL COMPANY, being a mortgage dated August 9, 2022, and recorded on August 22, 2022 in Liber 4790 Page 870, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated August 4, 2025 and recorded on August 7, 2025 in Liber 5056 Page 496, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of TWO HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVEN AND 28/100 DOLLARS ($210,727.28). Said premises are situated in the City of Otsego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOTS 6 AND 7, BLOCK 22, ORIGINAL PLAT, SECTION 22 AND 33. ALSO COMMENCING AT A POINT 20 RODS SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE OF HAMMOND STREET AND 20 RODS EAST OF THE EAST LINE OF FAIR STREET; THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL WITH FARMER STREET 10 RODS; THENCE EAST PARALLEL WITH HAMMOND STREET, 4 RODS; THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH FARMER STREET 10 RODS; THENCE WEST PARALLEL WITH HAMMOND STREET TO BEGINNING, SECTION 23, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 12 WEST, ALSO TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 12 WEST, SECTION 23, COMMENCING 12 RODS WEST OF THE WEST LINE OF WILMOTT STREET AND 20 RODS SOUTH OF THE SOUTH LINE HAMMOND STREET; THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL WITH FARMER STREET 10 RODS; THENCE WEST PARALLEL WITH HAMMOND STREET ABOUT 5 RODS; THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH FARMER STREET 10 RODS; THENCE EAST AND 5 RODS TO BEGINNING. Street Address: 229 Charles Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: November 20, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6596

(11-20)(12-11)

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE ALLEGAN COUNTY 48th CIRCUIT COURT

Case No. 25- 70133 -CH

Honorable Judge Matthew Antkoviak

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC,

PLAINTIFF

vs.

Case No. 25- 70133 -CH

Honorable Judge Matthew Antkoviak

GARY E. BURD, HEATHER BURD, LVNV FUNDING LLC; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT,

DEFENDANTS

Court address: 113 Chestnut St, Allegan, MI 49010

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION/POSTING AND NOTICE OF ACTION

Plaintiff:

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC,

2100 East 196th Street; Suites 100 & 200

Westfield, IN 46074

Plaintiff's Attorney

JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES LLC

Robert A. Blumberg (P87490)

Attorney for NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing

30 N. LaSalle Street, STE 3650

Chicago, IL 60602

312-541-9710

Defendant:

Unknown Heirs of Gary E. Burd

437 E. Hammond Street,

Otsego, MI 49078

TO: Unknown Heirs of Gary E. Burd

IT IS ORDERED:

1. You are being sued in this court by the plaintiff to foreclose a mortgage given by you to the plaintiff. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in this court at the court address above on or before January 10th, 2026. If you fail to do so, a default judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint filed in this case.

2. A copy of this order shall be published once each week in the Allegan County News for three consecutive weeks, and proof of publication shall be filed in this court.

3. N/A.

4. A copy of this order shall be sent to Unknown Heirs of Gary E. Burd 437 E. Hammond Street, Otsego, MI 49078 at the last known address by registered mail, return receipt requested, before the date of last publication and the affidavit of mailing shall be filed with this court.

Dated 11/17/2025

Judge Matthew Antkoviak

11-27 12-11

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Ryan Beyer and Erin Beyer, husband and wife, whose address is 3616 146th Avenue, Hamilton, Michigan 49419, as original Mortgagors, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR GREEN TREE SERVICING LLC, being a mortgage dated March 10, 2015, and recorded on March 24, 2015 in Liber 3912 Page 40, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated December 14, 2021 and recorded on December 14, 2021 in Liber 4708 Page 506, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX AND 35/100 DOLLARS ($138,756.35). Said premises are situated in the Township of Overisel, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: THAT PART OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, SECTION 12, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 14 WEST, OVERISEL TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 20' 50" WEST, 506.45 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 05 14" EAST 300.0 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 148.0 FEET OF SAID EAST 1/2, OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4, THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 20' 50" EAST 505.99 FEET, THENCE NORTH 0 DEGREES 00' WEST 300.0 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Street Address: 3616 146th Avenue, Hamilton, Michigan 49419 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: November 27, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 25 6448

(11-27)(12-18)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Ryan Decker a married man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC

Date of Mortgage: January 4, 2019

Date of Mortgage Recording: February 8, 2019

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $156,544.12

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Plainwell, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 77 in Orchard Acres No. 2, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 11 of plats, Page 71,

Allegan County Records.

Common street address (if any): 680 Glenview Cir, Plainwell, MI 49080-1365

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 27, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1578351

(11-27)(12-18)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Victoria Buell, a single woman

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Center LLC

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None

Date of Mortgage: August 26, 2015

Date of Mortgage Recording: September 16, 2015

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $87,360.50

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 17 of Gainder and Morrison Assessor's Plat, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 11 of Plats, Page 3, Allegan County Records.

Common street address (if any): 972 110th Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080-9515

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: November 27, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1578205

(11-27)(12-18)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Chad Losiewski

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: October 7, 2022

Date of Mortgage Recording: October 17, 2022

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $154,106.59

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Charter Township of Gunplain, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing on the South line of Section 15, at a point 400 feet East of the Southwest corner of said Section 15 as point of beginning; thence East on said Section line, 104 feet; thence Northwesterly to the center of Gun Marsh Road at a point 504 feet Northeasterly of the Southwest corner of said Section; thence Southwesterly along the center of said road 104 feet; thence Southeasterly to point of beginning, Section 15, Town 1 North, Range 11 West, Gun Plain Township, Allegan County, Michigan.

Common street address (if any): 605 Marsh Rd, Plainwell, MI 49080-9541

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 4, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1579039

(12-04)(12-25)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Name(s) of the

(Continued on Page B7)

Public Notices

Continued from Page B6

mortgagor(s): Jamison M Berg, An Unmarried Man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Top Flite Financial, Inc., its successors and assigns. Foreclosing Assignee: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC Date of Mortgage: October 13, 2021 Date of Mortgage Recording: October 19, 2021 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: $227,464.82 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Fifty feet in width off the East side of Lot 104, Original Plat of the Village (Now City) of Allegan, according to the recorded plat thereof. Commonly Known as: 347 Cutler St., Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Purchaser: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: 12/04/2025 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 321434

(12-04)(12-25)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Estate of Ruth Lois Sutherland, Deceased
Date of Birth: November 24, 1951
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Ruth Lois Sutherland, who lived at 155 E. 48th St., Lot 28, Holland, Michigan 49423, died October 23, 2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jennifer Curran, Personal Representative, or to both the Allegan County Probate Court, 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, Michigan 49010, and the Personal Representative within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: December 7, 2025
Jennifer Curran
Personal Representative
Allegan County Probate Court
113 Chestnut Street
Allegan, Michigan 49010

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Estate of GEORGE MICHAEL GAMA
Date of Birth: June 18, 1965
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, GEORGE MICHAEL GAMA, who lived at 3324 Wesler Drive, Allegan, MI 49055, died on September 16, 2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to George Anthony Gama, Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF GEORGE MICHAEL GAMA, ALLEGAN COUNTY PROBATE COURT FILE #: 2025-65941-DE, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Personal Representative:
GEORGE ANTHONY GAMA
Address:
P.O. Box 1166
Goshen, IN 46526
Attorney:
Oliver S. Howell (P64741)
Address:
Howell Parfet Schau
350 East Michigan Ave., Ste. 500
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
kzoolawfirm.com
(269) 382-5300
Court Address:
Allegan County Probate Court
113 Chestnut St.
Allegan, MI 49010

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 25-65946-DE
Estate of Marietta J. Kaylor a/k/a Marietta June Kaylor, Deceased
Date of Birth: 11/27/1939
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Marietta J. Kaylor, died on October 25, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Mary Lou Grazier, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010 and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date:
David F. Kiel (P43048)
Orton, Tooman, Hale, McKown & Kiel, P.C.
314 Trowbridge Street, P.O. Box 239
Allegan, MI 49010-0239
(269) 673-2136
Mary Lou Grazier, Personal Representative
806 Highbanks Dr.
Allegan, MI 49010

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 25-65971-DE
Estate of Richard B. Rix a/k/a Richard Bone Rix, Deceased

Date of Birth: 10/13/1941
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Richard Bone Rix, died on November 17, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Bill Bomar, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010 and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date:
Michael J. Becker (P81132)
Orton, Tooman, Hale, McKown & Kiel, P.C.
314 Trowbridge Street, P.O. Box 239
Allegan, MI 49010-0239
(269) 673-2136
Bill Bomar, Personal Representative
628 Glenview Circle.
Plainwell, MI 49080
(269) 207-7318

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on JANUARY 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Adam Flagg and Amanda Flagg, to Figure Lending LLC, Mortgagee, dated July 13, 2024 and recorded July 22, 2024 in Liber 4959, Page 244 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by FIGRE Trust 2024-HE6, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Twenty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-One and 13/100 Dollars ($24,761.13).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on JANUARY 15, 2026.

Said premises are located in the Township of Otsego, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

Commencing on the center line of River Road 740. 9 feet East of the East eighth line, thence South 74 degrees East 66 feet, thence South 132 feet, thence North 74 degrees West 66 feet, thence North 132 feet to the beginning, being in Section 23, Town 1 North, Range 12 West.

1416 106th Ave, Otsego, Michigan 49078

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: December 11, 2025
File No. 25-015345
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(12-11)(01-01)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on JANUARY 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Thomas Stille, an unmarried man, and Kathryn Garcia, an unmarried woman, joint tenancy with right of survivorship, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Hometown Lenders Inc., Mortgagee, dated September 13, 2022 and recorded September 21, 2022 in Liber 4799, Page 950 Allegan County Records, Michigan, and Affidavit Affecting Realty recorded October 23, 2025 in Liber 5080, Page 194 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by DATA MORTGAGE INC., DBA ESSEX MORTGAGE, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Three Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Seven and 43/100 Dollars ($322,867.43).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on JANUARY 15, 2026.

Said premises are located in the Township of Salem, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

Part of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, Town 4 North, Range 13 West, Salem Township, Allegan County, Michigan, and being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of said section 7; thence North 90 degrees 0 minutes 0 seconds East, along the North line of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 1051.20 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence continue North 90 degrees 0 minutes 0 seconds East, along the North line of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 397.70 feet; thence South 0 degrees 46 minutes 14 seconds East, a distance of 199.92 feet; thence South 90 degrees 0 minutes 0 seconds West, parallel with the North line of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 191.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 49 minutes 50 seconds West, parallel with the East line of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 39.25 feet; thence South 90 degrees 0 minutes 0 seconds West, parallel with the North line of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 170.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 49 minutes 50 seconds West, parallel with the East line of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 50.00 feet; thence South 90 degrees 0 minutes 0 seconds West, parallel with the North line of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 33.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 49 minutes 50 seconds West, parallel with the East line of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 7, a distance of 110.75 feet to the point of beginning, Allegan County Records.

3556 146th Ave, Zeeland, Michigan 49464

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: December 11, 2025
File No. 25-011186
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(12-11)(01-01)

ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Trust
In the matter of the Joseph B. Petty and Lynda L. Petty Joint Living Trust established September 17, 2024

Lynda Lou Petty was the surviving grantor of the Trust and her date of birth was February 24, 1949.

TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lynda Lou Petty, died October 30, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Jody L. P. Bolhuis, Trustee, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Jessica Arends P75919
321 Settlers Road
Holland, MI 49423
616-392-1821
Jody L. P. Bolhuis
3039 Indian Point Road
Saugatuck, MI 49453
269-223-0107

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
FILE NO. 25-65910-DA
Estate of Elaine C. Clark a/k/a Elaine Catherine Clark, Deceased
Date of Birth: June 20, 1933
NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Elaine C. Clark, died on September 8, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Cynthia Scarpaci, named personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010 and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date:
Michael J. Becker (P81132)
Orton, Tooman, Hale, McKown & Kiel, P.C.
314 Trowbridge Street, P.O. Box 239
Allegan, MI 49010-0239
(269) 673-2136
Cynthia Scarpaci, Personal Representative
10732 S. Wood St.
Chicago, IL 60643
(773) 991-1451

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Van Buren COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 2023 1129 DE and JUDGE
Court address 212 Paw Paw Street, Michigan 49079
Court telephone no.269-657-8225
Estate of Herb Fricko aka Herbert H. Fricko aka Herbert Henry Fricko, Deceased Date of Birth:*06-05-1956
TO ALL CREDITORS: **
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Herb Fricko aka Herbert H. Fricko aka Herbert Henry Fricko, died April 22, 2023.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Marietta Agnes Fricko, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

December 8, 2025
Donald M. Thinschmidt P24184
25058 44th Avenue
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49006
269-343-1208
Marietta Agnes Fricko
200 Turwill Lane
Mattawan, Michigan 49071
269-330-8994

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Lewis James Folk, a widower
Original Mortgagee: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Flickinger Service LLC
Date of Mortgage: June 17, 2011
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 24, 2011
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $208,719.16

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: South 417 2/10 feet of East 208 7/10 feet of West 417 4/10 feet of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 26, Town 1 North, Range 12 West

Common street address (if any): 1491 102nd Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080-9703

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: December 11, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1579674
(12-11)(01-01)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, January 15, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Rickey L. Marcus Jr., Married Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Union Home Mortgage Corp., its successors and assigns, Mortgagee, dated June 29, 2016, and recorded on August 9, 2016, in Liber 4054, Page 442, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated January 31, 2023 and recorded January 31, 2023 in Liber 4833, Page 151, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen and 81/100 ($136,214.81) including interest at the rate of 3.37500% per annum.* Said premises are situated in the Township of Leighton, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: That part of the South 200.00 feet of the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4; Section 18, Town 4 North, Range 11 West, lying West of a line described as: Beginning on the South Section line 118.75 feet East of the Southwest corner of the West 20 acres of the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4; Thence North perpendicular to said South Section line to the North line of the South 200.00 feet of the said West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4. Commonly known as: 1065 142ND AVE, WAYLAND, MI 49348 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. *Modified by a loan modification dated October 22, 2021 and recorded November 4, 2021 at Liber 4692, Page 320, Allegan County Records. Dated: December 11, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Nationstar Mortgage LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00505-2

(12-11)(01-01)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DEFAULT
REQUEST AND ENTRY
CASE NO. 25-18574-CH and JUDGE Hon. David A. Thompson
Court address 415 Third Street, Manistes, MI 49660
Court telephone no 231-723-666
Plaintiff name(s), address(es), and telephone nos).
PHH Mortgage Corporation
c/o Plainfiff's Attorney
Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephone no.
SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN P.C.
Ronald Glaser (P46986)
23938 Ressarch Drive, Suite 300
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
248.539.7400
v
Defendant name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s)
Any and All Unknown Heirs, Devisees and Assignees of Richard Najdowski
Party in default:: Any and All Unknown Heirs, Devisees and Assignees of Richard Najdowskl
REQUEST
1. I request the clerk to enter the default of party named above for failure fo plead or otherwise defend as provided by law.
2. The defaulted party is not an infant or incompetent person.
3. The defaulted party is not in the military service.
4, This request is made on my personal knowledge and, if swom as a witness, | can testify completely to the facts in this
request.
I declare under the penalties of perjury that this request has been examined by me and that its contents are true to the best of my information,knowledge, and belief.
11-11-25
DEFAULT ENTRY |
NOTE: Default can be entered by a district court Clerk without the request of a party.
The default of the party named above for failure to plead or otherwise defend is entered.
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
| served a copy of this default request and entry on the parties or their attorneys by first -class mail addressed to their last -known addresses as defined by MCR 2.107(C)(3). | declare under the penalties of petjury that this cefiificate of mailing has been examined by me and that its contents are true to the best of my Information, knowledge and belief.
12-8-25
12-11 12-25

CLASSIFIEDS

Sale

Sale at my home December 11th - 13th, Thursday & Friday 10 - 5pm; Saturday 9 - noon. Address is 1726 140th Ave. 1 mile south and 1/3 mile east of Dorr. Skincare, jewelry, makeup, etc. Big discounts.

Generators

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-773-8191 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Like us on facebook
facebook.com/allegancountynews

Waterproofing

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-866-438-1859

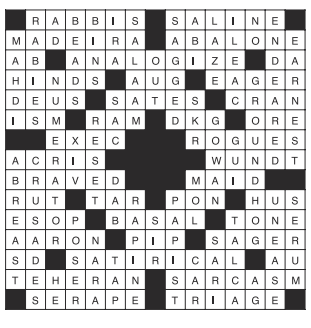
Cell Service

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just $20/month. For more information, call 1-866-306-6243

BROE'S X-CAVATING
"Dozer & Loader Work"
• sand • crushed concrete
• gravel • slag & top soil
(616) 836-3970

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION, PATIOS SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS, FLOORS.
Free estimates
Call 269-377-3950

5	9	8	3	1	6	2	4	7
1	3	7	4	8	2	9	6	5
4	2	6	7	5	9	8	1	3
2	6	9	1	4	7	5	3	8
3	7	1	8	9	5	6	2	4
8	5	4	2	6	3	7	9	1
6	1	2	5	3	8	4	7	9
7	8	3	9	2	4	1	5	6
9	4	5	6	7	1	3	8	2



CONSTRUCTION
CONSTRUCTION
New homes, additions, remodeling, roofing, siding, cement work.
Dan Barber, licensed builder.
673-7048 evenings

GET THE MOST FOR YOUR HOME BY CONSULTING...
The Home Doctor
BEFORE YOU SELL!
It's medicine for your home!
ALREADY BOUGHT A HOME? It's time to customize it to your taste. Consult below!

INSURANCE
Hartman - Ellis
AGENCY LTD
Insurance
Auto • Fire • Life
Home • Business
155 Brady St., Allegan
673-4256

SEWER / SEPTIC
WRAY'S
SEPTIC TANK
& DEVELOPMENT CO.
• Septic Systems Manufactured Installed and Cleaned
• Site Preps
800-391-0203
269-673-4791
www.wraysseptic.com
1148 Lincoln Road, Allegan

REDI-MIX CONCRETE
Waanders Concrete Co.
Redi-Mix Concrete
Cement Blocks
673-6352
Babylon Road, Allegan

RELIGION SECTION

By G C Stoppel

Each year when we were young, our parents would buy an Advent calendar for our refrigerator door. One calendar; two children. My sister generously let me go first, reminding me that I should take the odd numbers because she thought I was odd. I think she just wanted to open the big window on Christmas Eve.

These were old fashioned calendars of bright colors and scenes, and behind each window another little picture. Advent calendars have been around for centuries, but now, it seems that an increasing number of them have a treat behind the window. It might be a small morsel of chocolate or a small decoration for a miniature tree. The expensive ones have a travel-sized perfume bottle, semi-precious gemstones, or something else.

I prefer the old-style calendars, the ones that stay on topic. Each day during December, from the first to Christmas Eve, there is a door to be opened. It is sort of a countdown to Christmas, but it is up to each of us to make of it what we will. Is it one less day until Santa brings our gifts? One day closer to the big family dinner, the candlelight service at our church, or something else.

My best friend from kindergarten has her own interpretation: "One day closer to the arrival of the Christ Child is one day less to prepare our hearts and minds for Him. Get going! Daylight's burning!"

We are all busy preparing, in one way or another, for Christmas. Whether it is shopping and gift-giving, community activities, or more intense involvement in our churches, we are truly busy. But busyness, as my friend has often reminded me, can be a matter of spinning our wheels. There is lots of activity, but no forward progress.

For us, that 'forward progress' during Advent is a spiritual one. We get some insight through our public worship at our church. We gain more through reading and studying, but I believe much of it comes from divine inspiration when we are alone with God.

To my way of thinking, divine inspiration is rarely big, flashy, or expected. It might be something as simple as walking around the block, our mind emptying out from all of all the work and worries in our life, and suddenly we feel inspired by something around us. It could be a book we are reading that points us in a direction we have not considered before. Or it could be long-forgotten memories that come to mind.

These are not coincidences. There are no such things as coincidences. Oh, to be sure, we use the word, as in 'what a coincidence I ran into you.' No. To my way of thinking it is a God Moment. It is not by accident that you see an old acquaintance, read that particular passage from that book, or hear that piece of music. This is God breaking through to you, just as God, albeit via an angel, broke through the Mary and Joseph.

To be prepared for these moments and to better prepare for the deepest possible meaning of Christmas, we have been given this gift of Advent. May we all make the most of it, and sometimes an Advent calendar helps us in our spiritual growth.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomin gdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS)
4219 Parklane, Dorr
www.epiphanydorr.org
Sunday service at 9:15 a.m., Bible Study and Sunday School following

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:00 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Ganges United Methodist Church
2218 68th St
Fennville MI 49408
Phone 269-543-3581
Lay Minister - Marcia A. Tucker

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
04077 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Pathfinder North Church
(A Global Methodist Church)
532 M 89, Otsego, MI 49078
9:30 Fellowship 10:00 Worship
Rev Ron Hansen
Pathfindernorth.com

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell Church of Christ
911 James St.
Plainwell, Michigan 49080

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Redemption Place Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Deborah Lesher
Church: 269-355-1167

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UP Uni Pac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc. 1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co. Ready-Mix Concrete 3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan 673-6352

Allegan Eyecare Complete Eye Care for the Entire Family 123 Locust St., Allegan 673-5100 • 1-800-797-4351 www.alleganeyecare.com

LEGG LUMBER & Hardware Where the Builders Go! We deliver 730 River St., Allegan 269.673.4470 www.legglumber.com

NAPA AUTO PARTS 1513 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 269-673-3080

Ted's Auto Body Shop, Inc 892 34th St., Allegan 269-673-2309 Fax: 269-686-8508 tedsab1@gmail.com

A&A ANTKOVIAK & ANTKOVIAK PC For all your legal services 416 Hubbard St, Allegan • (269) 673-8468 antkoviak@frontier.com

Furniture Mattress Appliance COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE Your Complete Home Furnishing Store! 212 Trowbridge, Allegan, MI (269) 686-1155 8337 M-140 Hwy., South Haven, MI (269) 637-6135 www.countryhousefurniture.net

God He Integrity Opens Vision People's Encouragement Eyes www.HOPKINSPROPANE.com

To sponsor this page and join these community-minded businesses, call 269-673-5534.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Cheri Sleeman Schulz Associate Broker, REALTOR 269-720-4735 cherischulz@bhhsmi.com 430 Western Avenue, Allegan